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Blue-liner impresses

Morgan Rielly, product of West Vancouver's Hollyburn Country Club and Maple Leafs coveted prospect, is turning heads in WHL action PAGE 59

A GIFT GUIDE THAT'LL MAKE SANTA PROUD

FROM THE TECH LOVERS TO THE ECO-FRIENDLY, METRO'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE PAGE 45-56

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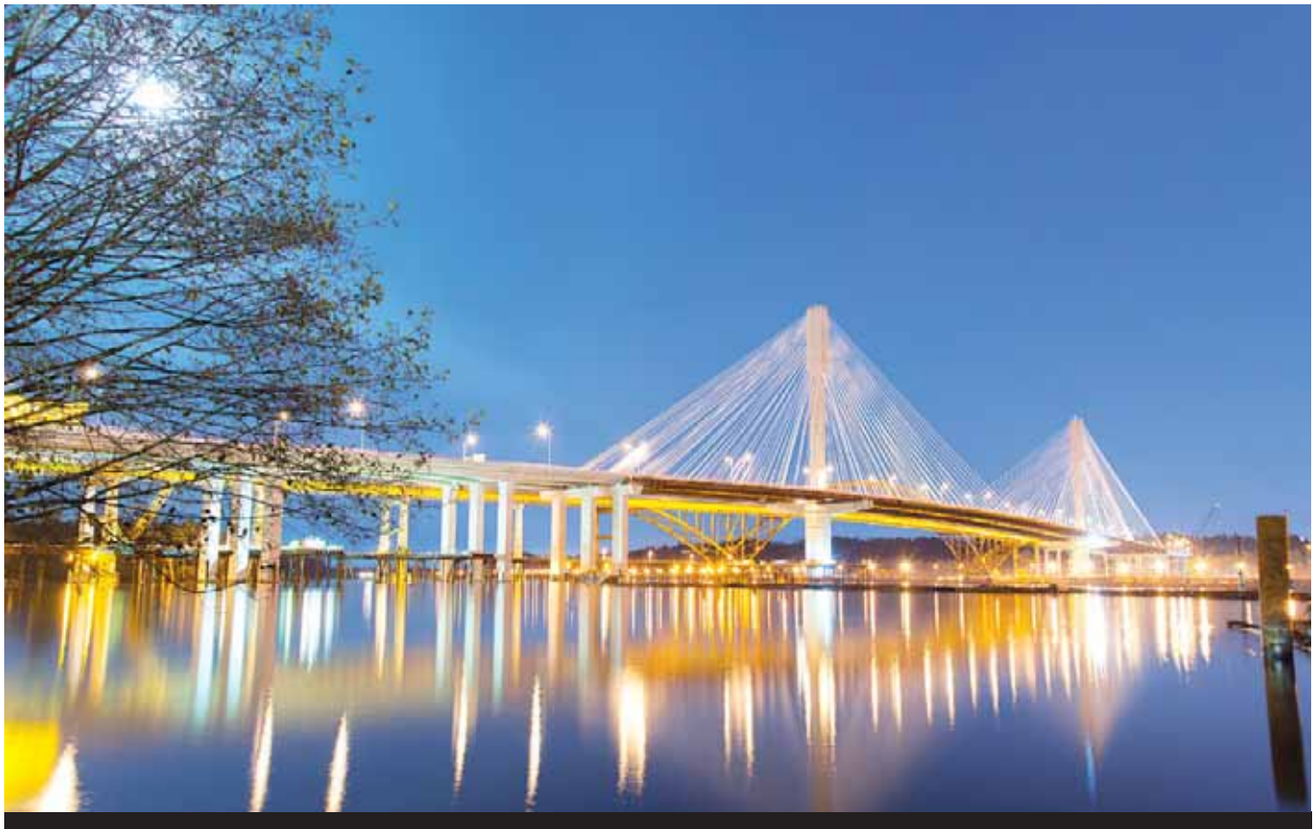

NEW BRIDGE MAKES WAVES

The Port Mann Bridge linking Coquitlam and Surrey officially opens on Saturday. The impressive new bridge is the widest in the world, and is proving a large target for urban planners, who argue the megaproject promotes urban sprawl, car use and outdated thinking. Story, page 4. CONTRIBUTED/TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Palestinians celebrate

UN General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to recognize a Palestinian state while Canada votes against the bid and suggests it will take retaliatory measures PAGE 18

Photograph goes viral

A snapshot of a New York City police officer giving new boots to a barefoot homeless man in Times Square has created an online sensation PAGE 22

Frosty reception

One Metro Reel Guy likens the new Anna Karenina film to an opera that's all drama, no music — but both praise Keira Knightley's performance PAGE 29

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NEWS 1

Shop talk

Male, female shopping habits more similar than expected: Survey

The myth that women shop far more than men may officially be busted. Play Taxi Media, which runs a national network of touchscreens in taxicabs, surveyed more than 8,000 riders (with an equal mix of men and women) about their shopping habits throughout September.

While 42 per cent of women said they spend more than $2,000 a year on clothes, men are nearly on par, with 37 per cent saying they spend the same. And while stereotypes assume men drop their cash only a few times a year, women have proven to be seasonal shoppers as well.

Only 16 per cent of respondents said they go clothes shopping on a weekly basis, 32 per cent said they hit stores a couple times a month, and a whopping 52 per cent said they go on seasonal splurges.

As for respondents' favourite stores: Winners is the top department store, with 40 per cent choosing it over The Bay, Holt Renfrew and Sears. And while spendy women lean towards Club Monaco and Michael Kors, the bigger spenders among men prefer Banana Republic and Lucky Brand.

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An artist's rendering of proposed housing constructed from recycled steel freight containers. COURTESY OF ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY

Boxcars revamped as DTES homes

Extreme recycling. New apartments will house 12 lower-income women

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

After travelling the world on ships and trains, 12 steel freight containers will become 320-square-foot studio apartments in the Downtown Eastside.

Construction on Canada's first homes made from recycled shipping containers begins Friday after years of efforts by non-profit Atira Women's Resource Society to build the unique, subsidized housing at Jackson Avenue and Alexander Street.

"They're environmentally friendly — we're reusing existing materials which would otherwise be sent to a landfill," Atira CEO Janice Abbott said Thursday. "We're thrilled it's coming to a conclusion."

The 12 stackable units are seismically sound and cost less than $100,000 each, according to Atira. They each include private bathrooms and in-suite laundry.

When they are complete in May 2013, the containers will house six women older than 55 years old for $375 a month (the maximum shelter rate), and six renters who will pay 30 per cent of their income.

The development is beside an Atira project for hard-to-house young women.

Atira will look for tenants in January, and will select women who are currently living in shelters, are couch surfing or are homeless.

"They're not necessarily hard to house except that they're poor," Abbott explained.

One of Vancouver's oldest heritage houses, built by early settler John Baptist Henderson in 1888, was torn down to make room for the project. Heritage Vancouver previously said it would be a "truly unfortunate outcome" if the house was demolished.

Atira tried to relocate the house for six months, but couldn't find a taker, Abbott said. It was in bad shape and moving it was too expensive for those who expressed interest in buying, she added.

The non-profit hopes to build more shipping-container housing in the near future.

Truckloads of opportunities

There are an estimated 17 million used shipping containers in the world, according to JWT Consulting.

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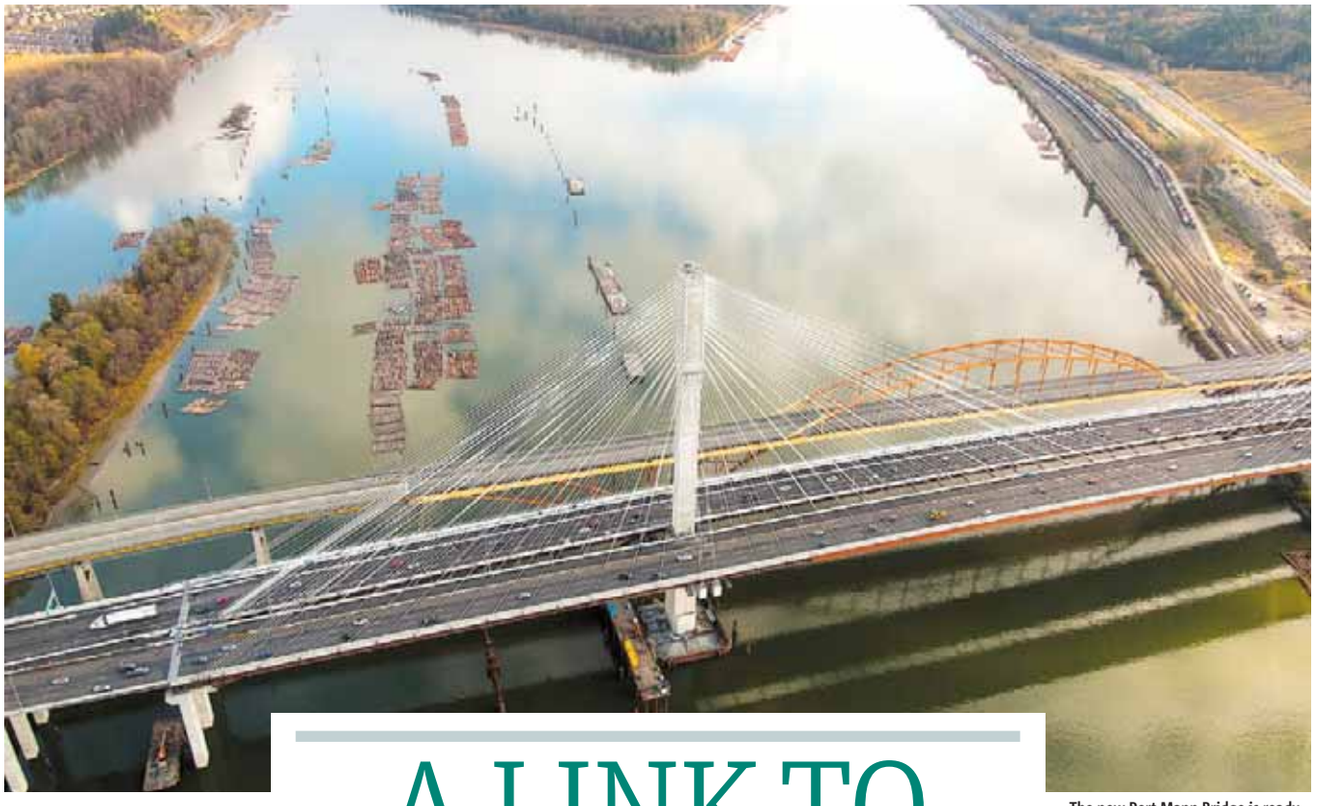

The new Port Mann Bridge is ready for its debut on Saturday.
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT CORPORATION/ CONTRIBUTED

A LINK TO THE PAST

A look at the new Port Mann Bridge — the 10-lane, $3.3-billion megabridge between Coquitlam and Surrey

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Its historical significance and sheer wow factor are unquestioned.

But everything else about the new Port Mann Bridge is fair game for sustainable transportation advocates.

Gordon Price — Simon Fraser University director of the City Program and board member of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities — says the government missed a golden opportunity to promote smart regional growth when the 10-lane, $3.3-billion megabridge between Coquitlam and Surrey officially opens Saturday.

Instead the project promotes urban sprawl, car use and champions outdated, 20th-century "motordome" thinking, flying in the face of emerging trends that point to a future of decreased car use and increased demand for public transportation.

"The most frustrating thing is that (the Port Mann) doesn't do what they said it was going to do: reduce congestion," said Price. "The claim is disingenuous when you pass on the opportunity to include rapid transit within the budget. When that happens, expanding the capacity for cars (without an alternative) increases the demand. If people can travel farther in the same amount of time from cheaper land, they will."

The original Port Mann, which cost $25 million in 1964, opened the region up to expansion south of the Fraser River.

That growth strained the road network, creating a situation today where the old five-lane Port Mann Bridge is congested in both directions 13 hours of the day.

Price doesn't dispute that a replacement was required and doesn't doubt commuters will give the bridge plenty of use despite its tolls.

But he calls the final design overkill and unnecessary.

"Why do we need the world's widest bridge when all the planners said eight lanes would do?" he said. "I doubt you'll ever need all 10 lanes. It's today's Granville Street Bridge, which never reached its designed capacity and never will."

Robin Lindsey, a transportation expert at the University of British Columbia Sauder School of Business, believes the effectiveness of the Port Mann won't be known until 2014.

"People need time to adjust and experiment with their routes and decide for themselves about tolls," he said. "I think it will cope fairly well. Best-case scenario, the peak times drop by as much as an hour and the effect of high capacity works. What happens in 50 years, I haven't the foggiest idea."

Forecasting done last year by Steer Davies Gleave, for Port Mann operator Transportation Investment Corp., showed that traffic volumes on the existing Port Mann have steadily decreased from 2005 to 2010, by approximately 8,000 vehicles in that period.

A Frontier Group report on driving behaviour in the U.S. shows the average annual number of vehicle miles travelled by people between the ages of 16 and 34 have dropped 23 per cent from 2001 and 2009.

While the recession is a factor in both cases, the Frontier Group states high gas prices, licensing laws, improved alternative transportation (public transportation, primarily) and changing attitudes about driving and the environment represent the start of a generational shift.

Meanwhile, increasingly aggressive urban planning on a municipal level emphasizing livable communities, public transit and non-vehicle infrastructure is dramatically changing driving behaviour.

The City of Vancouver, for example, has reduced traffic volumes in the downtown core to 1960s levels.

Price feels governments have been slow to react because leaders grew up in driving cultures and new statistics showing a shift away from that mentality are so dramatic "it's easy to be skeptical."

Yet around the world, recession, gas prices, greener vehicles and driving trends are starving tax-fuelled highway departments of cash while privately operated, tolled projects (such as Brisbane, Australia's Clem 7 and Airport Link tunnels) are going bankrupt.

Locally, the Golden Ears Bridge, opened in 2009, has fallen well short of average traffic projections.

And that doesn't factor in future transit improvements and the impact that promising technologies, like driverless cars, may have on congestion.

"Something is changing," said Price, who admits the mounting evidence is too young to form any concrete conclusions on.

Still, it invites the question: Are big-ticket highway megaprojects — traditional signifiers of economic development, regional growth and progress — like the Port Mann a dying breed?

"Bingo," said Price. "I just heard someone mention the other day that even the Ministry of Transportation knows these are last big highway projects they'll every be able to do in the Lower Mainland."

So be sure to take a snapshot of the new Port Mann, it could be the last of its kind.

"Now that it's built, we should celebrate it," said Price. "Give the engineers full marks, it's an impressive work of art."

New and improved Port Mann

- **Opening:** 8 lanes on Dec. 1
- **Tolls:** $1.50 per crossing for small vehicles. Increases to $3.00 March 1, 2013.
- **Vehicle registrations:** More than 200,000 to date.
- **Project cost:** $3.3 billion
- **Project details:** New 10-lane Port Mann bridge and Highway 1 upgrades spanning 37 kilometres
- **Expected time savings:** 30 per cent (up to an hour a day)
- **Distinction:** Widest bridge in the world.

Port Mann Bridge
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Bridge specs

Some of the major Lower Mainland bridges:

City of Vancouver

BURRARD STREET
Built: 1930s
Cost: $2,444,690
Capacity: 5 car lanes, 1 bike lane
Life expectancy: 25 years or more

GRANVILLE STREET
Built: 1954
Cost: $11,894,398
Capacity: 8 lanes
Life expectancy: 25 years or more

Source: City of Vancouver

Province of British Columbia

IRON WORKERS MEMORIAL SECOND NARROWS
Built: 1960
Cost: $23 million
Capacity: 6 lanes; 115,911 average annual daily traffic (AADT)
Life expectancy: 50-75 years from time of construction, can be extended

LION'S GATE
Built: 1938
Cost: $5.8 million
Capacity: 3 lanes; 59,880 AADT
Life expectancy: 50-75 years from time of construction, can be extended

PORT MANN
Built: 2012
Cost: $3.3 billion (including highway improvements)
Capacity: 10 lanes; 109,378 AADT (original bridge)
Life expectancy: 100 years

ALEX FRASER
Built: 1986
Cost: $58 million
Capacity: 6 lanes; 102,828 AADT
Life expectancy: 50-75 years from time of construction, can be extended

Source: Ministry of Transportation

TransLink

PATTULLO
Built: 1937
Cost: $4 million
Capacity: 4 lanes
Life expectancy: Planning underway to be replaced

GOLDEN EARS
Built: 2009
Cost: $808 million (including approaches)
Capacity: 6 lanes; 29,500 AADT
Life expectancy: 100 years

Source: TransLink

Lion's Gate Bridge
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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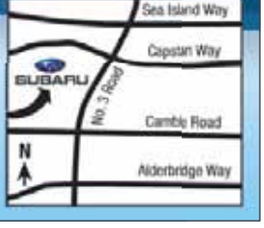

Entertainment District.
Downtown trash could soon be going high-tech

Trash might go high-tech in the Entertainment District.

The solar-powered garbage cans that compact trash in the Olympic Village, on Cambie Street and at UBC could spread downtown should city council approve the proposed 2013 budget next week.

The city operates about 35 of the cans, but it hopes to spend $1 million next year on more of the bins that use wireless communications to signal garbage collectors when they're getting full.

The BigBelly Solar bins hold two and a half times more than current cans, thus reducing the frequency of pickups. They're more expensive to purchase than traditional garbage cans, but the company says they reduce operating costs.

Fewer pickups, along with the shift of leaf cleaning and storm-outfall clearing to the sewer utility, will save taxpayers $400,000 a year, according to the proposed budget.

The city also anticipates fewer people will call 311 to complain about overflowing garbage bins. **EMILY JACKSON/METRO**

Unlawful confinement

Charges laid in 7-Eleven case

Charges have now been laid against a man who allegedly held a 7-Eleven female clerk at knifepoint and doused her with lighter fluid Wednesday. Koyes Ahmad, 37, has been charged with unlawful confinement, assault with a weapon and uttering threats. **PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO**

Sea to Sky region

Avalanche danger raised to high

Very dangerous avalanche conditions in the Sea to Sky region prompted the Canadian Avalanche Centre to issue a high danger rating in the area for the first time this winter. With a major snow dump expected over the next five days, travel in the alpine region is not recommended. **METRO**

HD Mining case 'repeating history,' says Mulclair

Federation of Labour's annual convention.
NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair compares mining case to legacy of Chinese railway

KATE WEBB
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Cheers and applause erupted at the BC Federation of Labour's annual convention in Vancouver Thursday as NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair accused the federal government of fast-tracking temporary workers' permits for HD Mining.

"We're serial apologizers in Canada," he told a house packed with sympathetic union members at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

"We've apologized for the treatment of the Chinese workers who were brought in to build the railroads, paid head tax, we've apologized quite correctly for the treatment of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in the residential schools, but sometimes we forget why we've apologized. Aren't we just repeating history here, instead of treating people properly?"

Repeating previous claims made by the BC Fed, the Opposition leader said the Chinese workers approved to work at the Murray River mine near Tumbler Ridge were hired for $10 to $17 less per hour than Canadian workers would cost.

Of the 201 miners approved, 60 are set to arrive in mid-December and 17 arrived earlier this month. The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 and the Construction and Specialized Workers Union Local 1611 have filed an application for a judicial review by the Federal Court, saying there are Canadian workers who can fill those jobs.

Mulcair said an NDP government would "maintain the long-standing practice in Canada of inviting people to come and join us in Canada and become full citizens," and that "having over 300,000 temporary foreign works deprived of their rights is not a good way to build a country for tomorrow."

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley has announced a review of the program in light of the controversy surrounding the Murray River mine.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair received a rockstar's welcome at the BC Federation of Labour's annual convention in Vancouver Thursday. KATE WEBB/METRO

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INFORMATION FEATURE

A NEW SHOPPERS DRUG MART IN VANCOUVER!

A new location of Shoppers Drug Mart is opening in Vancouver on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 at West 41st Ave. & Yew 2303 West 41st Ave. Open from 8:00am to 10:00pm, 7 days a week, the newly relocated store will service customers and patients with a team of over 50 skilled staff from the local community.

Customers will discover more health, beauty and convenient essentials, as well as a Canada Post outlet. In the Beauty Boutique™, there will be new and exciting cosmetics, derm and fragrance brands. There is also a larger assortment of everyday food items such as milk, eggs, bread and the popular Nativa Organics line.

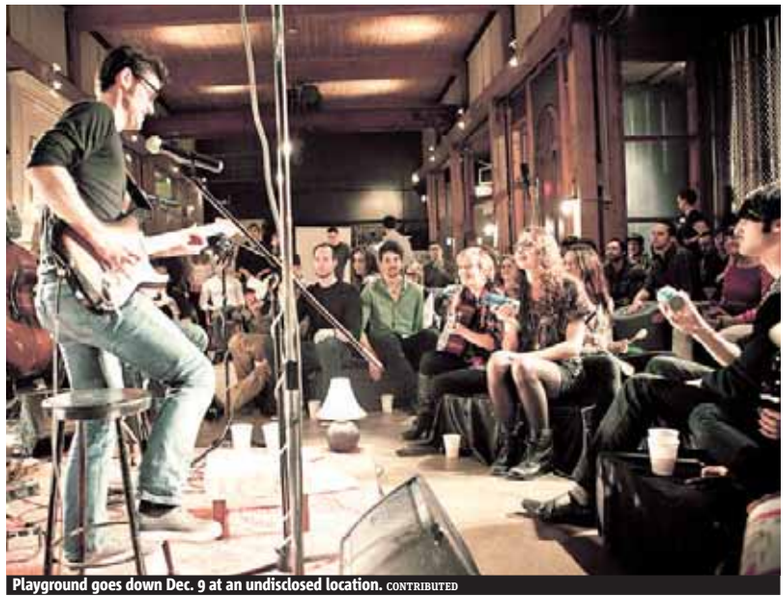
"We are very excited to introduce the people of Vancouver to the new and expanded Shoppers Drug Mart," says pharmacist owner Serena Lam. "In addition to increasing our service and product offering, this new location will allow our team of pharmacy professionals, beauty experts and front store staff to better accommodate the needs of our patients and customers. We are confident that with this newly relocated store we'll be an even greater trusted resource in fulfilling the everyday health, beauty and convenience needs of our community."

Celebrate the Shoppers Drug Mart grand opening on Saturday, December 1st, and take part in a variety of activities and specials at the store, including limited time offer specials, 10 draws for $50 Shoppers Drug Mart Gift Cards, and complimentary makeovers and skin analysis with Beauty Experts. The first 1000 customers receive a free mini Shoppers Drug Mart Eco-Bag.

Make music while drinking free beer

Playground.
Registration opens Monday for musical collaboration party

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca



Playground goes down Dec. 9 at an undisclosed location. CONTRIBUTED

It's an extraordinary event that only comes around once every six months or so: One band, 70 to 80 people drinking free beer, all collaborating to write an original song in one hour.

Playground is a labour of love dreamed up by Vancouver photographers Adam Schelle and Kev Holloway, who are organizing the free event for the sixth time with a few sponsorships and a team of about 10 volunteers.

Registration for the next party, which is slated to go down at a mystery location around Main Street on Dec. 9, opens this Monday, Dec. 3, and with 650 people already on the waiting list seats are expected to evaporate.

"From the second people first contact Playground we want to make them feel welcome," said Holloway, noting this next instalment of the series will be lead by local blues band The Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer.

"When they get to our venue someone's going to greet them, someone's going to take their coat, someone's going to put a beer in their hand. We're going to tell them the little things like where the toilets are, where the people are, what to do next, how they're going to choose which role they're going to take in the song."

No musical experience is required — just a willingness to step outside your comfort zone and ID proof of the legal drinking age.

The Cascade Company and Main Street Pilsner are sponsoring this event, which Holloway estimates would cost about $30,000 to carry off were it not for their help and that of their volunteers.

How to get on the list:

- **Register.** Sign up for the mailing list at Playground and make sure you have a digital photo of yourself on the computer you plan to register with (1 MB max and smaller is better).
- **Compatibility.** On Monday Dec. 3, check your email for the invite to RSVP. Make sure you are in front of a computer that supports uploading photos (iOS 5 and older won't work).
- **Upload photo.** RSVP as soon as you get the invite. You will need to upload your photo and choose from one of three points in the city where guests will be picked up.

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Traffic accidents.
Pedestrian deaths edge higher this year

More pedestrians were struck and killed this year than in the past two years, despite the city's attempts to reduce fatalities.

Of the 18 traffic fatalities in the city this year — the most recorded since 2008 — 10 were pedestrians. Nine pedestrians were killed in 2011 and six died in 2010. At least half of the walkers killed this year were in crosswalks or at intersections when hit, police reports say.

The deaths come as council approved a pedestrian safety study this spring and created the ambitious goal of zero traffic fatalities with the Transportation 2040 plan passed in October.

In the draft 2013 budget, the city hopes to spend $1 million on new pedestrian and biking signals, $900,000 on sidewalk reconstruction and $6.3 million on "active transportation corridors and spot improvements."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Shots fired in Delta

Two injured in attempted robbery

A man is recovering from gunshot wounds and another from a serious beating after an attempted robbery in Delta on Wednesday. Police say shots were fired at a strip mall on Scott Road, but the suspects got away. Investigators are looking for as many as three men. Anyone with information is urged to come forward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Contract dispute

Negotiate with union, BCIT students tell Clark

BCIT students unhappy about the one-day walkouts staged by faculty and staff have sent a letter to Premier Christy Clark urging her to settle with the union. The faculty and staff association says the college is ready to offer a new contract with a four per cent raise but the province has refused to OK the offer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

You better watch out: The big man in red is coming to town

Santa Claus will touch down on Vancouver on Sunday for the 9th-annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

We love you, Santa!
Don't forget your donation for the food bank

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Don't rain on Santa's parade.

This is what organizers are hoping for Sunday's big event — the Rogers Santa Claus Parade, which is also the Greater Vancouver Food Bank's biggest day for donations.

Parade producer Michelle Woywitka is optimistic that the weather will co-operate.

"We're crossing our fingers for sun," she said on Thursday. "It has never rained on parade day and this is our ninth year we're doing it. Every year there could've been rain, like early in the morning, but never during the parade."

More than 300,000 spectators are expected to line the streets of downtown Vancouver to revel in the sights and sounds of marching bands, choirs and festive floats.

Aart Schuurman Hess, CEO of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society, said the bank is relying on public generosity to help those in need, and a one-dollar donation can make a difference.

"We can convert that one dollar into three dollars worth of food," he said. "We have the buying power to stretch that dollar."

Since 2004, he added, the parade has collected about $110,000 and more than 67,000 pounds of food for hungry families in the Lower Mainland.

See you there

- Sunday's parade starts at 1 p.m. at Georgia and Broughton streets and finishes at Howe and Davie.
- Santa Claus will head down to the Robson Square skating rink for photos from 3 to 5 p.m.

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Fatal crash. Two young men die in collision on Lions Gate Bridge

A deadly crash closed the busy Lions Gate Bridge, linking Vancouver and Metro Vancouver's North Shore, for seven hours overnight.

The three-lane span shut down at about 11:45 p.m. Wednesday when a northbound car lost control and slammed into an oncoming West Vancouver Transit bus, and a third car piled into the wreck.

Two young men in the first car were rushed to hospital but could not be saved, and four of 15 people aboard the bus — including the driver — were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

West Vancouver Police Sgt. Ed Pearce said the force of the crash was horrific, crushing the northbound black car to about half its normal width.

He described the passenger side of the vehicle as flattened into the area behind the driver's seat.

Investigators spent the night trying to determine what caused the crash and had not released the names of the two men who died.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CKNW

Conference

B.C. to host liquid-natural-gas event

With plans in the works to build three liquefied natural-gas plants in B.C., the provincial government has announced it will host Canada's first international conference on LNG in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey

Hospital to reopen

B.C.'s busiest hospital emergency room will be back in business on Monday after being flooded almost two weeks ago. The Surrey Memorial ER had to be evacuated on Nov. 19 when a construction crew broke a water main, swamping the facility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WorkSafe BC asks for review of two deadly explosions

Smoke rises as police tape surrounds Babine Forest Products mill in Burns Lake on Jan. 21. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigation. Charges may be laid in two sawmill blasts that killed four people and injured over 40 others

The B.C. Crown has been asked to look into whether charges should be laid in two sawmill explosions that killed four workers and injured 42 others earlier this year.

WorkSafe BC said Thursday it has asked for a review of whether companies and individuals violated the Workers Compensation Act.

Quoted

"Lakeland has been co-operating with WorkSafe BC and other regulatory bodies to find out the cause."

Lakeland statement. The company is disappointed WorkSafe BC asked the Crown to pursue possible charges against the company.

Prosecutions under the act could result in maximum fines of $652,000 and jail terms of up to six months, said Roberta Ellis, a spokeswoman for the agency.

Investigation reports and files from the Jan. 20 blast at the Babine Forest Products Company in Burns Lake and the April 23 explosion at Lakeland Mills Ltd. in Prince George were sent to Crown counsel, who now will decide whether or not to launch prosecutions under the act, she said.

Earlier RCMP investigations ruled out criminal negligence in both explosions.

But Ellis said WorkSafe BC investigations discovered violations. The inspection reports, which could be used in prosecutions, are not being made public, she said.

"If WorkSafe BC had uncovered any evidence in regards to criminal activity, we would have forwarded that to the police," said Ellis. "This is a decision to refer to the Crown regarding violations of the Workers' Compensation Act."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Introducing the new 555 Carvolth/Braid ExpressBus over the Port Mann Bridge

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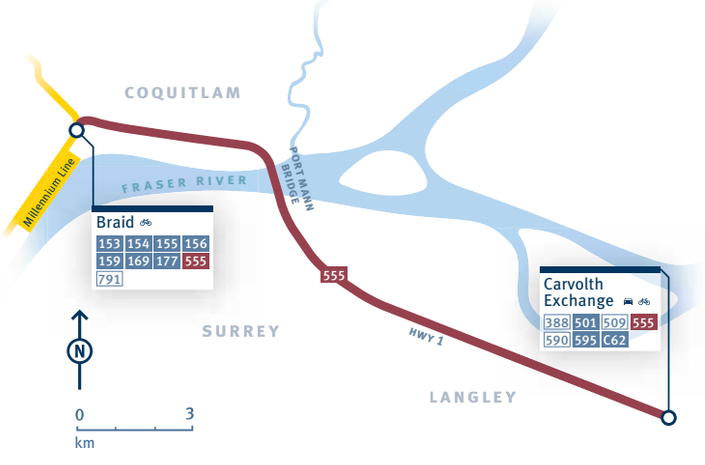

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Ont. police seek info in local man's murder

Hunt for suspects. Kamran Ahmadbeigi, of Vancouver, had been in Ontario for only several hours before he was killed

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Ontario police are seeking the help of Vancouverites in tracking down the suspected killers of a Vancouver man in Oshawa, Ont., earlier this year.

Mississauga, Ont. residents Shorsh Sad "Danny" Sivan, 31, and Nabaz Delr-Ismail, 28, are wanted on Canada-wide arrest warrants for the second-degree murder of Kamran Ahmadbeigi.

The 26-year-old Ahmadbeigi, who had been in Ontario for only several hours before he was killed, was found suffering from gunshot wounds in an apartment driveway in Oshawa's north end May 25. He was rushed to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

It was the Durham Region's third homicide of the year.

"There is a Vancouver connection in the case, including the fact the victim was from Vancouver," Durham, Ont., police said in a statement. "Sivan and Delr-Ismail are believed to have left Canada, but it is hoped someone in Vancouver may have information on their whereabouts."

Investigators are also working with other international police agencies to locate the suspects.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Dianne Jennings at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 5223, Det. Terry Haight at ext. 5247 or Durham Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Shorsh Sivan, left, and Nabaz Delr-Ismail are being sought on a Canada-wide warrant for the second-degree murder of Vancouver man Kamran Ahmadbeigi.
DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE HANDOUT

First-degree murder. Two Greeks gang enforcers handed life sentences

In the dark hours of May 31, 2005, enforcers for the notorious Greeks gang lured a man onto a quiet road on the outskirts of Vernon and shot him dead.

They believed he was a police informant, and so left his body in the middle of the street to send a message.

They were mistaken, court heard Thursday.

But the brazen display cast out the challenge they could murder with impunity — not only to other members of the seedy North Okanagan drug world, but to police.

As he pronounced life sentences for two of the killers on Thursday, a B.C. Supreme Court judge commended the RCMP, who launched a massive investigation that eventually led to the convictions of five men in three drug-related killings.

"In my view, citizens of this province can take pride with how that challenge was responded to," Justice Bill Smart said from the bench.

"Despite the wall of silence that usually protects those involved in criminal gangs, the police were able to gather sufficient evidence by May 2006 to arrest and charge the senior members of the Greeks — and, effectively, shut down the gang's operations."

Dale Sipes and Leslie Podolski were handed mandatory sentences of life imprisonment with no parole eligibility for 25 years on Thursday for their hand in the deaths of Ronald Thom and another man, David Marniuk.

Sipes was convicted of first-degree murder in both deaths, while Podolski was implicated on the first-degree charge in only Marniuk's demise. Sipes is to serve his two life sentences at the same time.

Others convicted

Sipes and Podolski's convictions came alongside convictions for charges ranging from first-degree murder to manslaughter for Greeks leader Peter Manolakos, member Sheldon O'Donnell and associate Douglas Brownell for killings that were carried out in 2004 and 2005.

- Sentencing for those three was adjourned until a date is set next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cyprus widow gets closure after 22 years

Damages. Court rules government failed to carry out timely probe into soldier's death

Andriani Palma says she feels cheated for every one of the 22 years she wasn't told her husband was killed during fighting in the summer of 1974 that split tiny Cyprus along ethnic lines.

Living with the hope that Charalambos Palmas might one day return to her and her children, she lived in a kind of suspended animation, unwilling to remarry and move on with her life.

"They denied me my youth, the joys of being young, they denied me everything," Andriani, who is now 65, said.

But on Thursday a court offered her some sense of justice by ordering the Cypriot government to pay $417,668 US in damages to her and two daughters, Kalliopi and Christina, for denying them the right to know for two decades.

Army authorities buried then-28-year-old reservist Palmas along with some 30 other Greek Cypriot soldiers in a mass grave marked "unknown" at Lakatamia cemetery on Nicosia's outskirts shortly after the fighting stopped. The soldiers were killed in heavy fighting as invading Turkish troops advanced north of Nicosia.

In its ruling, the court said the state failed to carry out a timely probe into Palmas' fate, even if it had evidence indicating that he was dead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"After so much struggle I feel vindicated."

Andriana Palma, widow of Charalambos Palmas, reacts to a settlement awarded in her case against the Cyprus government.

Flowers adorn an unmarked grave of a person killed during Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus, in Nicosia, on Thursday. PETROS KARADJIAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar. Dozens injured in mine protest

Security forces used water cannons, tear gas and smoke bombs Thursday to clear protesters from a copper mine in northwestern Myanmar, wounding villagers and Buddhist monks in the biggest use of force against demonstrators since the reformist government of President Thein Sein took office last year.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who arrived in the area hours later on a previously scheduled visit, said she would try to negotiate a solution.

In a statement broadcast on state television, the government initially acknowledged using the riot-control measures but denied using excessive force. In an unusual move, it later retracted the statement without explanation.

Monks and other protesters had serious burns after the crackdown at the Letpadaung mine near the town of Monywa. Protesters who oppose the mine's impact on villagers and the environment had occupied the area for 11 days.

The police action risks becoming a public relations and political fiasco for Thein Sein's government, which has been touting its transition to democracy after almost five decades of repressive military rule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi waves from a car to her supporters as she arrives in Monywa, Myanmar, Thursday. GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Palestinians celebrate the UN vote in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians win UN statehood

Landslide. Only Canada, U.S., Israel, the Czech Republic, Panama and four tiny island nations opposed

The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a long-sought victory for the Palestinians and a diplomatic defeat for the United States.

The resolution upgrading the Palestinians' status to a nonmember observer state at the UN was approved by a vote of 138-9, with 41 abstentions.

A Palestinian flag was quickly unfurled on the floor of the General Assembly, behind the Palestinian delegation. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds crowded into the main square, waved flags and chanted "God is great."

Real independence, however, remains elusive until the Palestinians negotiate a peace deal with the Israelis, who warned that the UN action will only delay a lasting solution. Israel still controls the West Bank, east Jerusalem and access to Gaza and it accused the Palestinians of bypassing negotiations with the campaign.

The Palestinians still face enormous limitations. They don't control their borders, airspace or trade, they have competing governments in Gaza and the West Bank and they have no unified army or police.

The U.S. immediately criticized the vote. "Today's unfortunate and counterproductive resolution places further obstacles in the path to peace," Ambassador Susan Rice said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the UN move violated past agreements and that Israel would act accordingly.

The Palestinians can now access UN agencies and international bodies, most significantly the International Criminal Court, which could become a springboard for going after Israel for alleged war crimes or its settlements on war-won land. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Domestic take

Canada considers retaliation

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird denounced the UN General Assembly Thursday for its "utterly regrettable decision" to allow the vote.

Baird also suggested Canada will take retaliatory measures against the Palestinians for forcing the issue onto the world stage. He didn't say what, but the obvious option would be suspending aid.

Baird said Canada was voting against the initiative because "we are firmly convinced (it) will undermine the objective of reaching a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Caught at border

Cult kids return home to Canada

Ten children, aged two through seven, who were allegedly living in Arizona with followers of a self-styled guru have been returned to Quebec and placed in youth protection. Two more returned to B.C. and another two are still missing.

Marcel Pontbriand of Beloeil, Que., led the cult, which allegedly separated kids from their parents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biohazard

Man jailed for syringe assaults

A Quebec man who hid dirty syringes in clothing at a shopping mall has been sentenced to four years in jail.

Claude Letourneau had pleaded guilty to 32 counts of theft, assault with a weapon causing harm and assault with a weapon.

Several shoppers were pricked by the needles and had to undergo drug treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salvation Army

Second charged in $2M toy theft

A second person has been charged in connection with the theft of 100,000 toys and other items from a Salvation Army warehouse in Toronto, police said Thursday.

Umaish Ramrattan, 61, of Ajax, Ont., faces 40 charges, including several counts of theft and possession of stolen property, and is to appear in court on Jan. 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Espionage

Warrants for spy to be released

The federal Crown has consented to unsealing redacted versions of three search warrants used to obtain evidence against a navy officer who pleaded guilty last month to passing military secrets to Russia.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle pleaded guilty in October to passing information to a foreign entity and breach of trust for selling classified information. He will be sentenced Jan. 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec holds blood for fear of contamination

Concern at provincial blood supply agency.
Tiny cracks in the packaging may have been the result of a manufacturing defect

A bag of blood is shown at a Montreal clinic on Thursday. Exposure to air could make a portion of the supply unusable. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's health minister offered assurances to patients on Thursday after the agency that oversees blood supplies in the province temporarily suspended use of some of its stock.

The problem has led to the postponement of some operations throughout the province.

"There is no contamination of the blood in Quebec," Health Minister Rejean Hebert told reporters in Quebec City.

"There is a problem with some batches of blood that could be contaminated, and we have withdrawn those batches of blood to be sure there's no problem."

Hebert insisted there is no risk to patients, adding that the agency, Hema-Quebec, has the reserves necessary to fulfil the needs of hospitals.

A Montreal health services spokeswoman said some elective surgeries at five area hospitals were delayed, including heart operations at three major Montreal hospitals.

A spokesman for Hema-Quebec said there was a problem with the equipment used to keep blood. Tiny cracks were found in some packaging used to store blood stock at a Montreal holding facility.

Laurent-Paul Menard said the blood, some of which had already been distributed to hospitals, risked being exposed to air, which creates favourable conditions for bacteria.

Menard said about 70 per cent of the agency's stock might be held for examination.

Hema-Quebec suggested the leaks in the bags appeared to have been a manufacturing defect. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspended

70%

The amount of the agency's blood stock that might be held for examination due to fears of bacterial contaminants

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N.Y. cop praised as an officer and a gentleman

Kindness goes viral. Police officer buys boots for barefoot homeless man on frigid November night

A tourist's snapshot of a New York City police officer giving new boots to a barefoot homeless man in Times Square has created an online sensation.

Jennifer Foster, of Arizona, was visiting New York with her boyfriend on Nov. 14, when she came across the shoeless man asking for change in Times Square. As she was about to approach him, she said the officer — identified as Larry DePrimo — came up to the man with a pair of all-weather boots and thermal socks on the frigid night. She recorded his generosity on her cellphone.

DePrimo, speaking to reporters on Thursday, remembered the night clearly, that even with two pairs of socks on, his feet were freezing.

The homeless man "didn't even have a pair of socks on and I could only imagine how cold that pavement was," the 25-year-old said.

Foster's photo was posted Tuesday night to the NYPD's official Facebook page and became an instant hit. More than 420,000 users "liked" it as of Thursday evening, and more than 140,000 shared it.

Thousands of people commented, including one person who praised him as "An officer AND a Gentleman."

The photo shows the officer kneeling beside the man with the boots at his feet. A shoe store is seen in the background.

"I have these size 12 boots for you, they are all-weather. Let's put them on and take care of you," Foster quoted DePrimo as saying to the man.

She wrote: "The officer squatted down on the ground and proceeded to put socks and the new boots on this man. The officer expected NOTHING in return and did not know I was watching."

This screenshot taken from Facebook shows policeman Larry DePrimo giving boots to a homeless man.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Runaway zebra and horse take to Staten Island streets

New York City can be like a zoo sometimes, but a zebra running wild through the streets is not something you ordinarily see.

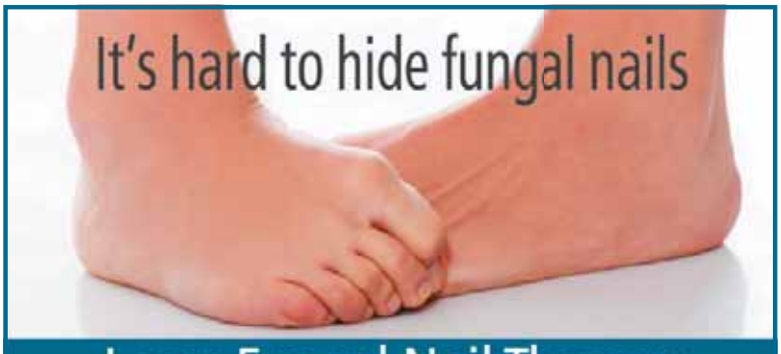
The Staten Island Advance reports a zebra and a miniature horse were spotted trotting through a shopping centre parking lot Wednesday morning in Staten Island.

Metropolitan Drape & Blind owner Zachary Osher saw the runaway equines and shared his video with the newspaper. He says the animals narrowly escaped being hit by a car.

Two men in dark suits ran after them with lassoes.

Police say they were corralled and returned to a local petting zoo, thus ending their short adventure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Polar ice sheets now playing larger role in rising sea level

Climate change. Melting ice is responsible for 40 per cent of overall sea-level rise, up from 20 per cent in the '90s

A study believed to be the most comprehensive ever done of the planet's ice sheets shows that, overall, they are melting faster and faster.

And as world leaders meet in Doha, Qatar, to discuss responses to climate change, the paper published Thursday in the journal Science shows the loss of ice from Greenland and the Antarctic is making an ever-greater contribution to rising sea levels.

"It's an observation with sufficient certainty to tell people the changes in the polar ice sheets are very much in line with what we expect those changes in climate to produce," said co-author Andrew Shepherd of the University of Leeds.

Shepherd was one of an international team of 47 scientists who combined a wide array of data from 10 satellite missions and other sources to provide the clearest picture yet of what has been happening with the massive sheets of ancient ice that help anchor Earth's climate at both ends.

Overall, the sheets have lost about 4,250 gigatonnes of ice since 1992, enough to raise the average sea level around the globe by 11 millimetres.

That may not sound like much, but Erik Ivins of California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory says it's enough to matter.

"When you have 11 millimetres of increased sea level, if you compute the amount of mass that's capable of coming on shore during storm surge, it's a lot of mass," he said. "Small changes in sea levels in certain places mean very big changes in the kind of protection of infrastructure you need to have in place."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surface melt water rushes along the surface of the Greenland Ice Sheet through a supra-glacial stream channel in this July photo. Polar ice sheets are now melting three times faster than in the 1990s, and that has added slightly more than a centimetre to already rising global sea levels, a new comprehensive scientific study says. IAN JOUGHIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Making progress

Obama admin. says AIDs-free generation within reach

The Obama administration is releasing an ambitious road map to slash the global spread of AIDS by getting more people treated sooner and accelerating the use of other proven tools.

Thursday's report outlines how progress could continue if U.S. spending remains consistent — something far from certain as Congress and President Barack Obama struggle to avert looming budget cuts at year's end.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the plan shows her call for an AIDS-free generation is a goal within reach.

Some 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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XL Foods

Same rules apply to meat for export, domestic markets: Inspection agency

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the same safety standards apply to meat for domestic consumption and for overseas exports, and reports to the contrary are "categorically false." The agency is reacting to a media report that inspectors at the XL Foods processing plant in Brooks, Alta., were told to ignore contamination on cattle carcasses unless they were destined for Japan.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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In a 2,000-page report on the ethics of the British media released Thursday, Lord Justice Brian Leveson said the press should be regulated by a new body with much stronger powers than the current Press Complaints Commission. GETTY IMAGES FILE

New regulator needed to corral press: U.K. judge

Media ethics inquiry. PM objects to report's key recommendation, citing free-speech infringement concerns

Britain's unruly newspapers should be regulated by an independent body dominated by non-journalists with the power to levy steep fines for ethical lapses, a judge recommended Thursday after a year-long inquiry.

But Prime Minister David Cameron immediately expressed deep misgivings about a key recommendation in the report — that the new regulator be enshrined in law.

"I'm proud of the fact that we've managed to survive hundreds of years without state regulation," Cameron said.

The impasse left questions about the eventual impact of Lord Justice Brian Leveson's sweeping probe of media ethics in Britain. The inquiry was triggered by a tabloid phone hacking scandal that expanded to engulf senior figures in politics, the police and Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

Leveson said a law should be established to prevent more people being hurt by "outrageous" press behaviour that had "wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people whose rights and liberties have been disdained."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court approves Twinkie maker's bankruptcy — including bonuses

Hostess Brands Inc. got final approval for its wind-down plans in bankruptcy court Thursday, setting the stage for its iconic snack cakes to find a second life with new owners — even as 18,000 jobs will be wiped out.

The company said in court that it's in talks with 110 potential buyers for its brands, which include CupCakes, Ding Dongs and Ho Hos. The suitors include at least five national retailers such as supermarkets, a financial adviser for Hostess said.

The process has been "so fast and furious" Hostess wasn't able to make its planned calls to potential buyers, said Joshua Scherer of Perella Weinberg Partners. "Not only are these buyers serious, but they are expecting to spend substantial sums," he said, noting that six of them had hired investment banks to help in the process.

The update on the sale process came as Hostess also received approval to give its top executives bonuses totalling up to $1.8 million US for meeting certain budget goals to bring down costs during the liquidation.

The company says the incentive pay is needed to retain the 19 corporate officers and "high-level managers" during the wind down process, which could take about a year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostess Brands' Wonder Bread
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

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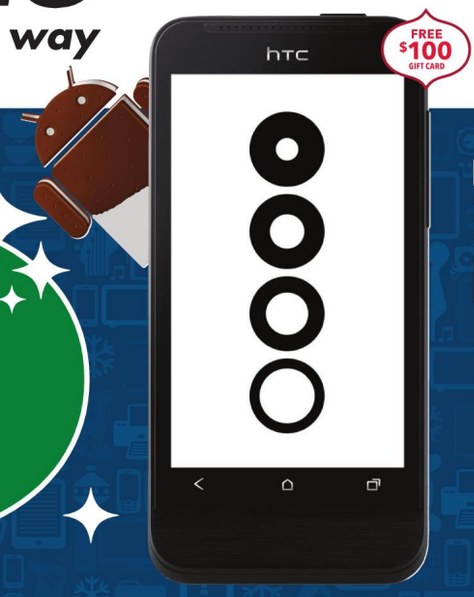

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Ex-baseball player indicted in insider trading case

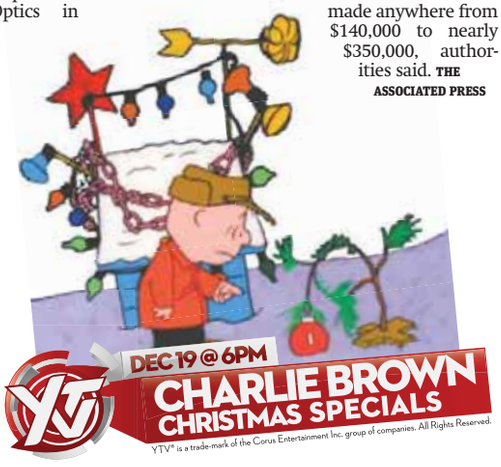
Former Baltimore Orioles all-star Doug DeCinces and three others were indicted Wednesday on insider trading charges involving the use of information prior to the takeover of a medical device company in California, authorities said.

In 2008, DeCinces was told by a close friend and official at Advanced Medical Optics Inc. that Abbott Laboratories planned to pay $21 to $23 US a share for the company's stock, prosecutors said. At the time, Advanced Medical Optics was trading for about $8 a share.

DeCinces began buying Advance Medical stock based on that information and passed along the takeover details to three friends because he wanted to make up for previous investment recommendations that had gone bad, prosecutors said.

When Abbott's offer was made public, DeCinces sold his newly purchased shares and profited about $1.3 million, court documents show. Abbott acquired Advanced Medical Optics in January 2009.

DeCinces' three friends each bought and sold Advanced Medical stock and made anywhere from $140,000 to nearly $350,000, authorities said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


DEC 19 @ 6PM
CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS SPECIALS
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What's their beef? Low wages, no union

Protesters, many of them employees at Wendy's, demonstrate outside of one of the restaurants to demand higher pay and the right to form a union on Thursday in New York City. The campaign, called Fast Food Forward, organized protests at other New York fast-food establishments including McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Domino's. The group seeks to double hourly pay to $15 US an hour. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Air Canada to launch direct flights to Istanbul in summer

Air Canada is introducing direct service next summer to Istanbul, Turkey and will use two new Boeing 777 aircraft to expand its reach into the lucrative Asia-Pacific market.

Year-round service to Istanbul three times a week from Toronto will begin June 4 and serve as a gateway to Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa with alliance partner Turkish Airlines.

"Istanbul and Turkey is growing incredibly fast. The traffic that we have been carrying to date via our European partners we feel warrants now a non-stop service," chief commercial officer Ben Smith said in an interview.

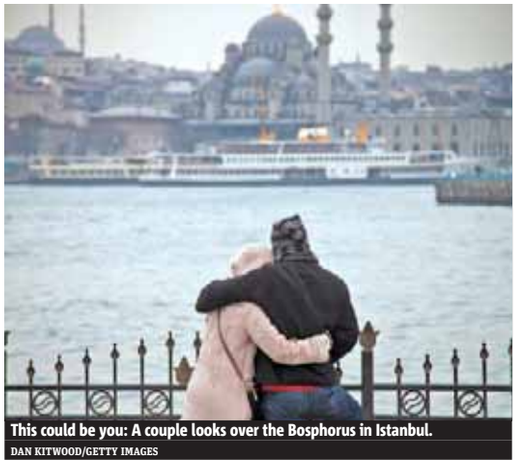
Air Canada will also add a fifth destination in Asia from Toronto by launching non-stop, three-times-a-week service to Seoul. The flights will complement existing service from Vancouver and provide daily departures from Canada to the South Korean capital.

Three more weekly departures between Toronto and Beijing will begin June 1, bringing the total to 10 a week. Vancouver will offer 11 weekly departures with the addition of four additional flights, including a new late night flight.

"Obviously we're going to deploy our aircraft with the most profitable opportunities that are out there and we feel that's what we're seeing in Asia."

The expanded service will appeal to leisure travellers, but the airline is focused on enhancing its Toronto hub for use by business travellers originating from the eastern United States and Canada.

The Montreal-based airline released part of its summer schedule on Thursday but hasn't yet disclosed the destinations for its new low-cost service. THE CANADIAN PRESS


This could be you: A couple looks over the Bosphorus in Istanbul.
DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Enbridge fire 'preventable,' watchdog says

Ontario. National Energy Board's report on 2009 incident comes as company seeks approval for $6B project

The National Energy Board says poor oversight and communication were to blame for an Enbridge natural gas pipeline fire west of Toronto more than three years ago.

In September 2009, a contractor was working on the line in Mississauga, Ont., and damaged part of it, causing gas to escape and ignite. A flame shot up 50 metres into the air.

"Examination of the evidence, documents gathered, and interviews conducted indicate that the incident was preceded by a number of contributing conditions and unsafe acts," the NEB said in a report released this week.

No one was hurt in the fire and the environmental impact was limited, but a building, vehicles and construction equipment were damaged. Nearby businesses, including a strip mall and daycare, were evacuated as a precaution.

In the report, the federal energy watchdog says the incident was "preventable." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consequences

- Both Enbridge and the contractor have pleaded guilty to violations under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- The Ontario Court of Justice has sentenced each to a $50,000 fine.

DEC 5 @ 6PM
A FAIRLY ODD CHRISTMAS MOVIE
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On the up

Top 5 automakers on track to bring in record profit this year: Scotiabank

The world's five-largest automakers are on track to post the industry's most profitable year on record — continuing an upward trend that is likely to continue for some time, according to a report from Scotiabank.

Scotiabank estimates the global auto giants are headed for a combined $61.4 billion US in profit this year.

That's a huge rebound from the industry downturn sparked four years ago by a credit crisis in the U.S. banking sector.

The report says investors and corporate officials are worried about the industry's deteriorating prospects in Western Europe, but that's offset by the growing importance of developing markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Over $1.9B in last quarter

RBC reports all-time high earnings

The Royal Bank reported Thursday a record annual profit for its latest year, including $1.9 billion in the fourth quarter, powered by its personal banking business.

The first of Canada's big banks to report its fourth-quarter results said personal and commercial banking business earnings topped $1 billion for the quarter.

Chief executive Gord Nixon said the bank would use its size to continue to grow despite expectations for the pace to slow.

"While we anticipate that the strong growth in consumer lending that we experienced this year will be moderate, we continue to have good momentum in the higher margin commercial business," he said.

"Overall we believe that we can continue to achieve volume growth at a 25 per cent premium to the market." THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOT MILKED? 'UDDERLY' AMAZING VIDEO GOES VIRAL

THE LIST
Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 **Leafs worth $1 billion.** The Toronto Maple Leafs franchise is now worth a whopping $1 billion, according to Forbes, making them the first team in the NHL to hit that figure. It's like the longer the Leafs go playing mediocre hockey and not making the playoffs, the more the brand is worth! Enough already.

2 **TipMine.** From how to take a perfect basketball shot, to dealing with arthritis, to tricks to beating nail-biting, a new Canadian website called TipMine has advice on just about everything. And you can even submit your own text or video tips to share with others. So stop biting your nails and check it out.

3 **#Babynames.** A couple named their newborn Like after Facebook last year, and this week it was revealed a couple who are obviously big Twitter fans apparently named their baby girl Hashtag — full name Hashtag Jameson. Just you wait: Someone in 2013 will name their baby Pinning after Pinterest.

4 **The smile epidemic.** A social-innovation project based out of Waterloo, Ont., focuses on making people and organizations happy. The Smile Epidemic (@Smile__Epidemic on Twitter) suggests that doing simple things that make you smile for 30 days can change the way you look at the world. Go to TheSmileEpidemic.com to find out how to participate. And give a smile today.

5 **Coldplay.** Many fans got a rush of blood to the head when the band announced it's taking a long break from touring. "This is the last big show for three years or so," the band's leader Chris Martin said at a recent show. Maybe Martin wants to spend more time with wife Gwyneth Paltrow having date nights in, listening to Coldplay songs like The Scientist.

6 **150 Shades Of Play.** Sexperts Em and Lo are releasing a new book, 150 Shades of Play: A Beginner's Guide to Kink, an A-to-Z manual that serves as kind of a companion piece to the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy — but with real advice and quality writing. It's already working: I am cuffed to a bed wearing a kinky costume talking dirty as I dictate this to my wife.

7 **Chris Brown.** Imagine a Twitterverse free of Chris Brown? Well, that's the Christmas gift the R&B singer with massive anger issues gave us by deleting his account after sending misogynistic, violent tweets at comedian Jenny Johnson in response to much tamer tweets Johnson directed his way. Fingers crossed he never reactivates it.

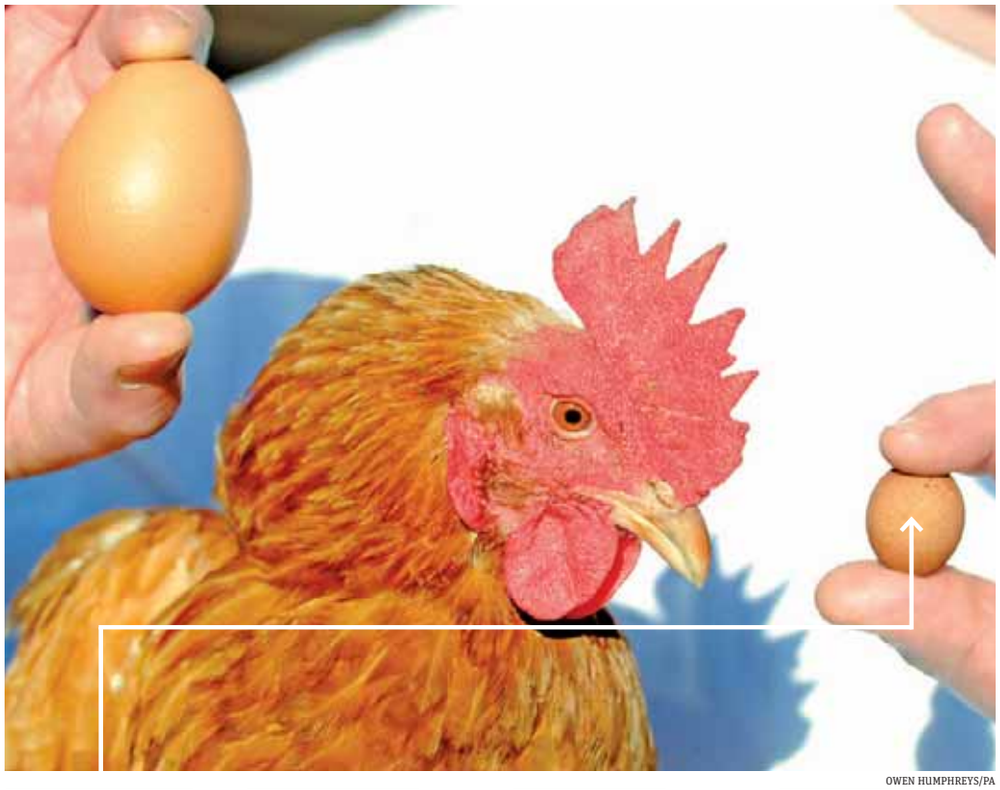
8 **Milking.** The new planking is milking, which involves pouring containers of milk over your head in a public place. It originated with dudes in Newcastle, England. I think I did this as a submission move during a food fight in my high school cafeteria in Peterborough, Ont., in 1988. So these Newcastle dudes totally ripped me off. They just weren't born yet to know it. The video now has almost half a million views. Watch the hilarity at metronews.ca.

9 **Jenna Marbles.** If you haven't heard of entertainer/comedian Jenna Mourey, a.k.a. Jenna Marbles, you must check out her YouTube channel, which has nearly five million subscribers. With her (profanity-laced) social-commentary vids like Things I Don't Understand About Girls, and Apps Are Ruining My Life, she is hysterical fun.

10 **Google's Mr. Dressup.** Google Canada celebrated the 85th birthday of the late Ernie "Mr. Dressup" Coombs on Monday by placing a doodle of him on google.ca, with puppets Casey and Finnegan. Mr. Dressup was an iconic Canadian children's show that ran from 1967 to 1996. If you want to know more about Ernie Coombs and his place in pop culture, google him.

11 **Lindsay Lohan.** The train wreck that is Lindsay Lohan had another normal week in the life that is Lindsay Lohan: She got arrested. Yes, late Wednesday night, she was arrested for allegedly punching a woman at an NYC nightclub. This girl needs the world's largest intervention ever.

Tiny egg no small potatoes



OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Record-breaking egg

Man thinks he has smallest hen egg

A bed-and-breakfast owner who believes he has found the world's smallest hen's egg confessed he took it in his pocket to show his pals at the pub.

Paul Rae found the dime-sized egg on Sunday alongside three normal ones in his henhouse at the business he runs with his wife, Margaret, in Humshaugh, Northumberland, northeast England.

METRO

Owner's viewpoint

"After I found it I had a quick look online, then I took it to the pub. My friends said I should get in touch with the Guinness Book of Records."

Paul Rae, 52, owner of the Walwick Farm House bed and breakfast
Rae admitted he keeps his prized find more safely now. "I don't carry it in my pocket now; it's wrapped in cotton wool," he said.

Other contender

Rival egg hopes to break record first

Rae's discovery comes at the same time Harry Evans found an egg that he claimed was barely larger than a dime at his farm near the market town of Bakewell, Derbyshire, central England.

"(Evans') weighed 7.3 grams but mine was just five grams," Rae said. "It's certainly not longer than 2.5 centimetres, which his was — it's less than that in length."

METRO

Egg-laying business

Hen that laid egg remains a mystery

Now Rae is hoping to beat Evans to the record books.

"There is no category for the world's smallest chicken egg as far as I know, so I am going to try and get it recorded," Rae said.

Yet sadly he doesn't know which of his four Lohmann Brown hens, named after his wife as Margaret's Girls, spawned the now-famous egg.

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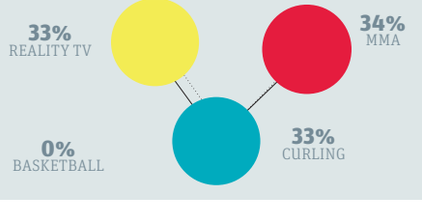
With the hockey lockout, what are you watching a lot more of?



Twitter

@ThomasMulcair:
I just arrived in Vancouver. I'll be speaking later at the BC Federation of Labour's 55th Convention. Looking forward to it! #NDP #bcfed12

@SFU:
Go Clan Go! RT this if you're cheering for the @SFUCLAN men's soccer team! #NCAA ^dt

@thismason:
My old uni's soccer team is in the NCAA Final Four. It's uncomfortable to say out loud, but Go Clan! http://nyti.ms/SwM9gg

@weetrina:
Hahaha awww well done all the clan fans down there!! It's all you can hear! #purpleandproud x

@BobRansford:
The debate over closing 100 meters of Robson Street in the heart of #Vancouver's downtown has ignored perspective. http://tinyurl.com/d8vnorv

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GIVE THE GIFT OF SPORT
Jumpstart

Keira Knightley wears imperialist Russian style well in Anna Karenina. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

To Russia, with love

Anna Karenina. Luxe setting, costumes and Keira Knightley's cheekbones make for a screenplay that felt a bit too staged

Richard: Mark, the story itself is rather simple and has been told many times, so what distinguishes this version, aside from the cast (more on that later), is the sumptuous staging. Every frame of the film drips with beauty, from the sets to the clothes to Knightley's cheekbones. But that's to be expected from a big retelling of the story. What really captures my eye — and mind — is the unconventional way director Joe Wright has chosen to tell the tale. What did you think of the mix of reality and fantasy?

Mark: I think Joe Wright, to his credit, wanted to take the stiffness out of a classic. Setting the movie in a theatre is an unusual move, which makes it feel intimate but also a bit claustrophobic and gimmicky. Perhaps he was trying to say that people in pre-revolutionary Russia were forced to play their social roles and this is the undoing of Karenina. The theatre setting allows for some breathtaking transitions but sometimes left me scratching my head.

RC: It's a risky bit of staging to be sure, but I imagined I was watching an Anna Karenina opera, with all the implied drama and grandeur, but none of the music. I think it's a brilliant piece of staging for a story that has enough passion and tragedy for two operas. What did you think of Knightley? She has a face meant to be framed by fur hats and veils, but apart from looking the part, she carefully modulates Anna's descent from socialite to outcast with grace and dignity while allowing notes of frustration and misery to seep through.

MB: Your comment about music is interesting to me because at times I thought the actors were just about to break into song! I thought Knightley, who has to carry the movie, has the evanescent presence of a great silent movie actress. It was Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) that felt miscast. He should be fatally dashing, but he just seems callow and expressionless. He's just not seductive enough to make me believe Anna would throw her life away for him. Jude Law, on the other hand, is perfect as the wronged husband. And it took a lot of guts for him to sport that hairline.

RC: You got that right. He does leave his matinee idol days behind with that haircut. I also liked Matthew Macfadyen, whose élan and rakish charm turns the womanizing Oblonsky into one of the film's high spots.

MB: There's great wit from a screenplay by Tom Stoppard and a sumptuous production design, but in the end — wow! — can Keira Knightley rock a hoop skirt.

Synopsis

Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's classic story set in imperialist Russia begins with a family in tatters because of marital transgression. St. Petersburg aristocrat and socialite Anna Karenina (Keira Knightley) travels to Moscow to visit her womanizing brother Oblonsky (Matthew Macfadyen) and his long-suffering wife Dolly (Kelly Macdonald). Her counsel saves their marriage, but the trip proves to be the undoing of hers.

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●●○○

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JUMPSTART INVESTS $12 MILLION ACROSS CANADA

Canadian Tire Jumpstart has reached a monumental milestone: The national charity has helped more than 500,000 children across Canada between the ages of four and 18 take part in organized sports and recreation since its inception in 2005.

"This is a celebratory and significant milestone," says Bal Gosal, Canada's minister of sport. "Physical activity and access to sports for our kids is key to a healthier, stronger country. Canadian Tire Jumpstart is making a real difference in the lives of many young Canadians."

Thanks to generous donations as well as support from the Canadian Tire Corporation, dealers as well as vendors, Jumpstart has helped half a million kids participate in 78 different activities, from swimming and hockey to football and dance. By the end of 2012, Jumpstart will distribute $12 million back into Canadian communities to help kids who otherwise could not participate in having a sporting chance.

Jumpstart is unique in its ability to work in every community across Canada with 315 local chapters created and managed by volunteers and caring Canadian citizens. These chapters work closely with more than 2,400 community partners to identify families with financial needs whose children would benefit from participating in the programs. It is a perfect formula for a national charity to help at the local level.

So how can ordinary Canadians help the one in three families that can't afford to pay the fees for organized sport and recreation programs? There are many ways to get involved. One hundred per cent of donations made at any Canadian Tire, Canadian Tire Petroleum or Mark's locations remain directly in your community. Or, one way this holiday season is to go online and donate to the Jumpstart Symbolic Giving Program; there's no better gift to give than the chance for a child to enrol in a season of sport and recreation.

Last Christmas, instead of exchanging gifts with her Canadian Women's Hockey League Toronto Furies' teammates, goaltender Sami Jo Small and the other players pitched in to buy a $200 Canadian Tire Jumpstart hockey registration for a Canadian child who wanted to play the sport they love but wasn't financially able.

"We plan to do it again this year," says Small, the three-time Olympic women's hockey team champion who is also a Canadian Tire Jumpstart ambassador. "You don't have to spend a lot to make a big difference in a child's life."

The momentum behind Jumpstart is awe-inspiring. "Our vision is more than getting children involved in sports and recreation — it's to have a country where all kids have a chance to fulfill their dreams," says Johnny Misley, the president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Jumpstart™

GIVE THE GIFT OF SPORT

1 in 3 families can't afford to enrol their kids in orga
This holiday, you can help chan
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JUMPSTART HELPS CANADIAN KIDS' DREAMS COME TRUE

One of Eric Pilz's proudest moments came when he watched his four young sons overcome their fears and dive head-first in the pool from a three-metre diving board. Pilz knows a lot about overcoming life's challenges: As a single father confined to a wheelchair, he hasn't always been able to give his children the kind of one-on-one help that he would like.

Pilz turned to Canadian Tire Jumpstart so his sons could take weekly diving lessons at a local pool in Vancouver. "When they started, they were afraid to jump off the one-metre board," he says. "By the end of the year, they were doing back dives from the three-metre board."

Today, his youngest sons, 11-year-old identical twins Josh and Nick, have a new diving goal. After watching last summer's London Olympics, the brothers became inspired to try their hand at the sport of synchronized diving.

Pilz says that whether his sons go on to compete or not isn't important to him. Instead, he's proud of the things they've been able to accomplish and grateful that Canadian Tire Jumpstart has helped make it possible. "The impact that the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program has on our communities is invaluable. Jumpstart has helped 7,070 kids from Vancouver since 2005 and this is just one example of the many success stories the program has to share" states Vancouver Canadian Tire dealer Ward Saito.

"The lessons have taught them so much — discipline, fortitude and how to overcome their fears," says Pilz.

One way to give this holiday is through Jumpstart's Symbolic Giving Program, which allows you to give the gift of a season of sport to a child in need. From hockey lessons for $200 to swimming lessons for $75, find the perfect holiday gift.

For more information on Jumpstart or on how to donate or apply, please visit Jumpstart.canadiantire.ca or call 1-877-616-6600.

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Sundance fest books record slate of female filmmakers

Entries announced.
Strong turnout by women shows more and more are breaking into the industry

The Sundance Film Festival has an apparent record lineup of female directors competing for its top honour this January.

Half the entries — eight of the 16 films — announced Wednesday in the festival's U.S. dramatic competition were directed by women for the next installment of Robert Redford's independent-cinema showcase, which runs Jan. 17 to 27 in Park City, Utah.

Going back to 1992, the best showing previously for female filmmakers was in 2000, when six of the 16 U.S. dramatic contenders were directed by women.

Sundance organizers were still trolling back to the early years of the festival's 33-year history, but this January's eight competition films appears to be most ever from women and the first time the entries have been evenly split between female and male directors.

Among the competition films from female filmmakers are Francesca Gregorini's Emanuel and the Truth About Fishes, whose cast includes Jessica Biel and Frances O'Connor in the story of a troubled girl fixated on a mysterious neighbour; Lynn Shelton's Touchy Feely, featuring Rosemarie DeWitt, Allison Janney and Ellen Page in a tale of a massage therapist who develops a distaste for bodily contact; and Liz W. Garcia's The Lifeguard, with Kristen Bell as a reporter who moves home to Connecticut and takes a job as a lifeguard.

The festival's U.S. dramatic lineup also features the first Sundance entry for Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who stars as Allen Ginsberg in director John Krokidas' Kill Your Darlings.

Male directors still dominate the big-screen, but the low-budget indie world has been narrowing the gender gap. Sundance director John Cooper said some Sundance film categories have had a nearly even split between male and female directors in the past, a sign that more and more women are breaking into filmmaking.

"I think that's absolutely it," Cooper said. "Also, what we've found is that through our short-film programs, they've been coming close to 50/50 in certain years or at least a high level of women directors. So it's more of a coming-up-through-the-ranks situation" as female directors graduate from short films to feature-length stories.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austenland is one of the entries in the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.
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Thriller

Killing Them Softly

Director. Andrew Dominik

Stars. Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini

Brad Pitt stalks around New Orleans as a hitman in Andrew Dominik's thriller, which drains the juice out of its underworld scenario by reminding us at every turn that it's actually an allegory about the American economy. The film is twisty and violent but also insufferably pretentious; it acts as if it's the first movie to equate crime and corporate thinking, when it's actually just the latest in a long line.

ADAM NAYMAN

Filmmaker learns the hard way to Beware of Mr. Baker

Documentary.
Jay Bulger delves into the personal life of Cream's explosive drummer Ginger Baker, and ends up with a broken nose

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Jay Bulger deliberated about how much of a part he should play in Beware of Mr. Baker. The writer and director's debut documentary focuses on the impulsive and explosive life of drummer Ginger Baker, who is best known as the thunderous beat behind Cream, the 1960s band that defined the term "supergroup." It might at first seem superfluous to include the personal story of the filmmaker, especially because Baker is such a one-of-a-kind character whose history is dense with so much unabashed sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and violence. But some of those forces inevitably leaked into Bulger's own life while making the film.

"I was like, 'God, I'm there so much and you hear my voice, I should probably show who I am,'" says the filmmaker. "And then when he broke my nose with a cane, I thought that was such an indicative moment of who he is and how he deals with people."

The assault begins and ends the doc, but between these personal bookends, Baker tells of a troubled childhood and how he escaped through an enchantment with rhythm and, soon after, heroin. Both are constants during his meteoric rise to fame and many falls from such dizzying heights.

Lounging in a leather chair in his South African home, Baker often berates Bulger. "It's like boxing," says Bulger. "Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside."

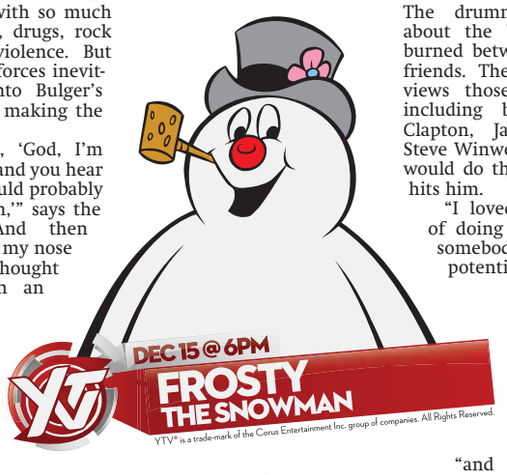
And he does get inside. The drummer opens up about the bridges he has burned between family and friends. Then Bulger interviews those same people, including bandmates Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Steve Winwood. That Bulger would do this is why Baker hits him.

"I loved the challenge of doing a movie about somebody who is so potentially unlikable," says the filmmaker. "As much as you want to hate him, you've got to love him because he still keeps going," says Bulger, "and he never compromises."

Quoted

"Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside"

Jay Bulger on putting up with Ginger Baker's abuse during filming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Quoted

"I'm definitely past halfway... I think about it very much as a father. You just want to be around to see (your children) do everything. If I have so many days left, how am I filling those days? I've been agonizing over that one a bit like I never have before."

Brad Pitt, who stars in the new film Killing Them Softly, on his career and turning 49 in December.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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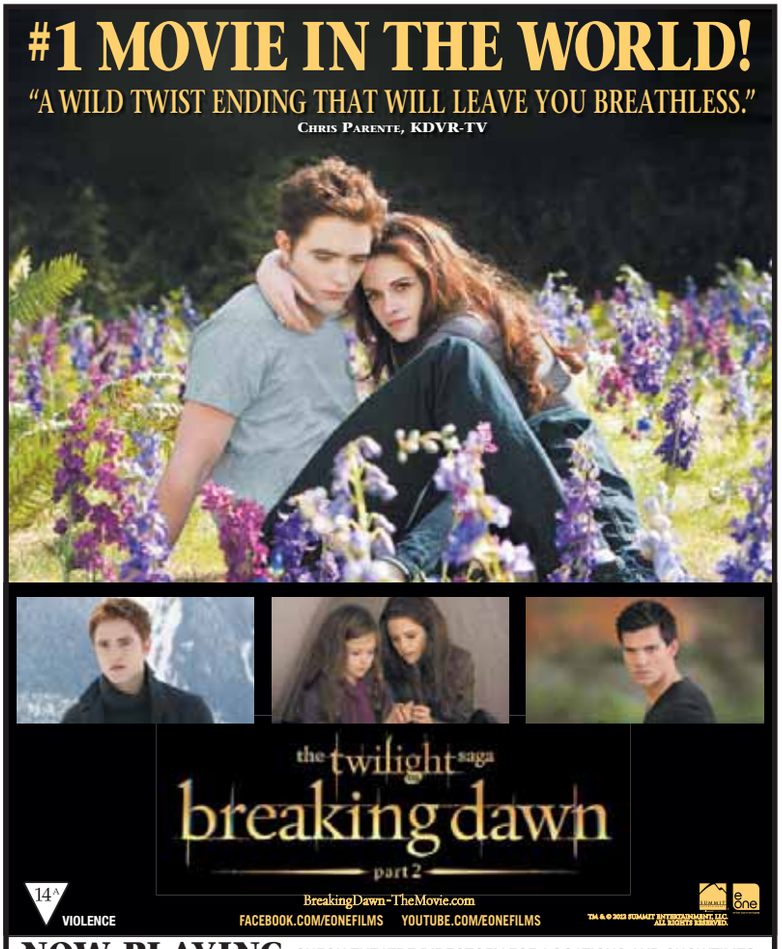

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Gerard Butler talks Playing For Keeps and men in the throes of midlife crisis

Rom com. Actor can relate to film's character — a former soccer star who causes chaos around him

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

In Playing For Keeps, Gerard Butler is an ex-soccer star trying to get his life back together in small town America. HANDOUT

Gerard Butler produced and stars in Playing for Keeps, a romantic comedy about an ex-international soccer star who returns to small-town America, where his son and estranged wife live.

As George discovers and Butler knows, being famous can create problems.

"You get that as an actor in my position," says Butler.

"You can cause a bit of chaos even with the best intentions wherever you go. (My character) George is chaotic on the inside and he causes chaos wherever he goes, but he's trying his best to take the right path. That right path is often blocked by those who would like to get their claws into him because he's an appealing character and yet in himself he doesn't feel that at all. That's what's interesting about him," he says.

Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman don't work often. How did you lure them back?

I was kind of surprised myself. They were fun roles for them to get into, they are juicy comedic crazy roles and yet they speak to you in a way that's relatable. People get those characters, where they're coming from.... That's what I loved about this movie.

What wisdom do you have for men in a midlife crisis?

For a man, it's about growing up.

You want to keep the child in you, but at the same time you've got those quick fixes and learn about commitment and sacrificing something and ultimately going beyond distraction and love (to) family (and) career. ... But that's tough because in this life we live there are so many temptations and distractions and you can't deny it, they're fun and exciting. I'm thinking, 'Yes, that's it.'

I'm finally growing up and then for a long period of time I'm thinking I have no purpose, no real maturity, and I'm not handling my responsibilities very well.

As one of the Sexiest Man Alive (2004) any words for Channing Tatum?

That was a long time ago! Just be yourself and you're judged on that. If you have to try, it's pretty sad. I'm sure Tatum didn't have to try.

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Vancouver

OMNIMAX Theatre Science World 1455 Quebec St.

Hubble (STC) A.M. Tue 11
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Tue 1-3 Wed 11-1-3 Thu 1-3
To the Arctic (G) Fri 12-2 Sat-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-2

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

Skyfall (PG) Fri 3:30-7-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55

Fifth Avenue Cinemas 2110 Burrard Street

Argo (PG) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:25-7:15 Sun 4:25-7:15 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:15
Hitchcock (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:10-9:20
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:35
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:30
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:55
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

The 1000-Euro Generation (STC) Sat 6:30
Black Pond (STC) Mon 6:30
Bread and Circuses (STC) Sun 8:20
Fear of Falling (STC) Sat 4:30
Home for the Weekend (STC) Thu 6:30
Hot Hot Hot (STC) Sun 6:30
The Hunt (STC) Tue 8:35
Lost Persons Area (STC) Tue 6:30
Love (STC) Sat 8:20
A One-Way Trip to Antibes (STC) Sun 4:30
The Phantom Father (STC) Fri 8:20
Signál (STC) Wed 9
Sonny Boy (STC) Wed 6:30
Steam of Life (STC) Mon 8:10
The Strange Case of Angelica (STC) Fri 6:30
Waltzing Regitze (STC) Thu 8:10

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street,

Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:35
Ridge Theatre
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311
Anna Karenina (PG) Fri 4-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:40
Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca
A Clockwork Orange (STC) Fri 11
Found Footage Festival 2012 (STC) Tue 7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Mon Wed-Thu
The Room (STC) Fri 8

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St.,

Argo (PG) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10 Sat 1:45-4:25-7:15-10:10 Sun 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10 Mon 12:45-3:25-10:15 Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:25-4:10-9:50 Thu 1:25-4:10-7-9:50
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Sat 3-6:50-10:30 Sun 3:40-6:50-10:30 Mon 1-4:40-8:20 Tue 3-6:50-10:30 Wed 1-4:40-8:20 Thu 2-9:30
Flight (14A) Fri 1:25-4:35-7:35-10:40 Sat 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:40 Sun 1:25-4:35-7:35-10:40 Mon 1:15-4:15-10:30 Tue 1:25-4:35-7:35-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:30
Jesus Christ Superstar UK Spectacular (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:40 Sat 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:40 Mon 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:20 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:40 Wed 1:25-4:10-7:15-10:20 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Otello Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Sat 10:45-1:30-4:20-7:20-10:25 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:25 Mon 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:25 Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:25
Skyfall (PG) Fri 11:45-12:25-12:50-3:40-4:05-7:05-7:40-10:30-11 Sat 10:45-11:45-12:25-1:10-3:40-4:05-7:10-7:40-10:30-11 Sun 12:25-12:50-3:40-4:05-7:10-7:40-10:30-11 Mon 12:30-12:50-3:30-4:05-6:55-7:20-10:10-10:30 Tue 11:45-12:25-12:50-3:40-4:05-7:05-7:40-10:30-11 Wed-Thu 12:30-12:50-3:40-4:05-6:55-7:20-10:10-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-8-10:15-10:50 Sat 10:25-11:35-1:25-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-8-10:15-10:50 Sun 11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-8-10:15-10:50 Mon 1:20-1:50-4-4:30-6:50-7:20-9:35-10 Tue 11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-8-10:15-10:50 Wed-Thu 1:20-1:50-4-4:30-6:50-7:20-9:35-10

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street

Cine Chile (STC) Fri Sun-Mon Thu
Louie Bluie (STC) Tue 7:30
Reel Causes (STC) Wed 7

North Shore

Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7:40 Mon-Thu 7:20
Flight (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:40
Lincoln (PG) Fri 6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
The Sessions (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Sat-Sun 1
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:05-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

Argo (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri 7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 7:05-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat 11:40-2:10 Sun 2:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:40-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Skyfall (PG) Fri 7-10:20 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:40 Sun 12:20-3:30-7-10:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 7:30-10:05 Sat 11:15-1:50-4:35-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:50-4:35-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

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Argo (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05 Sun 4:20-7:10-10:05 Mon 1:15-4:10-7-9:55 Tue 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05 Wed 1-3:55-10:30 Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:55
Back to 1942 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-7:05-10:20 Mon 1-4:15-7:25-10:35 Tue 12:35-3:50-7:05-10:20 Wed-Thu 1-4:15-7:25-10:35
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-5:40-9:30
Flight (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:35 Mon 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:05 Tue 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:05
Home Alone (STC) Sat 11
Jab Tak Hai Jaan (PG) Fri-Mon 1:40-5:30-9:15 Tue 1:45-5:35-9:20 Wed-Thu 1:40-5:30-9:15
Jesus Christ Superstar UK Spectacular (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon 2:10-5-7:40-10:05 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 2:10-5-7:40-10:05
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:25-4:30-7:30-10:40 Sat 10:30-1:25-4:30-7:30-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:30-7:30-10:40
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:45-6:40-7:10-10-10:30 Mon 12:50-4:05-6:40-7:20-10-10:45 Tue 12:25-3:45-6:40-7:10-10-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:50-4:05-6:40-7:20-10-10:45
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35 Mon 2:30-4:55-7:30-10:10 Tue 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:30-4:55-7:30-10:10
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 1:30-4:05 Sat 11-11:10-1:30-4:05 Sun-Wed 1:30-4:05 Thu 4:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15 Mon 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:15-7:20-10:25 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:25 Mon 1:10-4:05-7:05-10 Tue 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:25 Wed 1:10-4:05-7:05-10 Thu 4:05-7:05-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Skyfall (PG) Fri 12-1-3:10-4:15-6:30-7:35-10:10-50 Sat 10-10:30-12-1-3:10-4:15-6:30-7:35-10:10-50 Sun 12-1-3:10-4:15-6:30-7:35-10-10:50 Mon 12:45-2:50-4:15-6:20-7:35-9:40-10:45 Tue 12-1-3:10-4:15-6:30-7:35-9:40-10:50 Wed-Thu 12:45-2:50-4:15-6:20-7:35-9:40-10:45
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:15 Mon 1-4-7:10-10:20 Tue 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:20 Wed-Thu 1-4-7:10-10:20
Talaash (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Mon 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:25 Tue 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:45 Sat 10:10-10:35-11:35-1:50-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:45 Sun 11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:45 Mon 1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:40 Tue 1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:55-10:10-10:40
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12:20 Sat 10:45-12:20 Sun 12:20 Mon 1:15 Tue 12:20 Wed-Thu 1:15
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:55-5:30-8:10-10:40 Mon 4-7-9:40 Tue 2:55-5:30-8:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 4-7-9:40

Burnaby

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Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 5-7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 5-7-9
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 4:30-6:40-8:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:30-6:40-8:50 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:40-8:50

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Home Alone (STC) Sat 11
Jesus Christ Superstar UK Spectacular (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:10-10:40 Sat 1-3:15-5:45-8:10-10:40 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:10-10:40
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Otello Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 12:55-3:25-5:40-8:05-10:40 Sat 1:35-3:25-5:40-8:05-10:40 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:25-5:40-8:05-10:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:10 Sat 10:55-12:10 Sun-Thu 12:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:40-10:05
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:40-7-10:25 Wed 12:25-3:40-10:25 Thu 12:25-3:40-7-10:25 Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:20-5:05-7:55-10:45 Mon-Tue 2:20-5:05-7:55-10:45 Wed 2:20-5-7:20-10:45 Thu 2:20-5:05-7:55-10:45 Fri-Sat 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Sun 4:30-7:20-10:10 Mon 1:30-4:15-10:10 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Wed 1:40-4:30-10:10 Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12:20 Sat 10-12:20 Sun-Thu 12:20
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:30-8-10:35

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street,

Argo (PG) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:35 Sun 4:45-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:35
Back to 1942 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Thu 6:45-10:20
Flight (14A) Fri 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:45 Sat 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45 Sun 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:45 Mon 12:45-10:15 Tue 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:45 Wed 12:45-3:50-10:20 Thu 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:45 Mon 3:50
Home Alone (STC) Sat 11
Jesus Christ Superstar UK Spectacular (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:40 Mon 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:30 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:40 Wed-Thu 1-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:30
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15 Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon 3:45-6:50-9:50 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:50
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Mon 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Tue 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Fri-Sun 1:30-5-8:30 Mon 5-8:30 Tue 1:30-5-8:30 Wed-Thu 5-8:30
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55 Sat 9:55
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Mon 12:55-3:15-5:35-8-10:25 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:35-8-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:55-3:15-5:35-8-10:25
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 1:45-4:15 Sat 10:55-1:45-4:15 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:15 Wed 4:15 Thu 1:45-4:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:10 Mon 2:45-5:10-7:45-10:10 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:10 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:10
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:05-4-7:05-10 Sat 1:10-4-7:05-10 Sun-Thu 1:05-4-7:05-10 Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:30 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:30 Tue 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Skyfall (PG) Fri 12-3:15-6:45-10:05 Sat 10:40-12-3:15-6:45-10:05 Sun 12-3:15-6:45-10:05 Mon 3:15-6:35-9:50 Tue 12-3:15-6:45-10:05 Wed 4:10-7:30-10:45 Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Fri-Sun 12:30-4-7:20-10:45 Mon 4-7:15-10:30 Tue 12:30-4-7:20-10:45 Wed-Thu 4-7:15-10:30 Fri-Tue 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 3:15-6:35-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:50 Mon 3:45 Tue 11:55-2:35-5:20-8:05-10:50 Wed-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Fri 1-3:50-7-9:50 Sat 11:05-1-3:50-7-9:50 Sun 1-3:50-7-9:50 Mon 1-2:25-5:10-7-7:55-9:50-10:40 Tue-Thu 1-3:50-7-9:50 Fri 1:50-4:40-7:45-10:25 Sat 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:25 Sun 1:50-4:40-7:45-10:25 Mon 4:40-7:35-10:15 Tue 1:50-4:40-7:45-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:35-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12:05-2:40 Sat 10:15-12:05-2:40 Sun 12:05-2:40 Mon 2:05 Tue 12:05-2:40 Wed-Thu 2:05
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:15-7:55-10:35 Mon 4:45-7:25-10:05 Tue 5:15-7:55-10:35 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:25-10:05

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Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema 7125-138th Street, Surrey

Argo (PG) Fri 7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:25-7:05-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:30
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Thu 8:45
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 2:45-5 Mon-Thu 5
Hotel Transylvania (G) Fri-Thu 12:45
Hotel Transylvania 3D (G) Fri 4:45-6:45 Sat-Sun 2:45-4:45-6:45 Mon-Thu 4:45-6:45
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri 4:55 Sat-Sun 2:45-4:55 Mon-Thu 4:55 Sat-Sun 12:25
Taken 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:15
Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400
Flight (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:30-7:35-10:40
Home Alone (STC) Sat 11
Jab Tak Hai Jaan (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-5:40-9:35
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon 1-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:40
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:55 Mon 1-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:40 Tue 12:55-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:55 Wed-Thu 1-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:10 Sat 11-12:10 Sun 12:10 Mon 1:45 Tue 12:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 1:45
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15 Mon 5:10-7:45-10:15 Tue 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:45-10:15
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:30-11 Mon 1:05-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Tue 12:25-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:30-11 Wed-Thu 1:05-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45
Son of Sardar (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6-9:15
Talaash (PG) Fri-Thu 1-5:30-9
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Mon 2:20-5:10-8-10:45 Tue 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Wed 5:10-8-10:45 Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12:20 Sat 11-12:20 Sun 12:20 Mon 2 Tue 12:20 Wed-Thu 2
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon 5:30-8:05-10:35 Tue 2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Wed-Thu 5:30-8:05-10:35

Studio 12 Guildford 15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Jab Tak Hai Jaan (PG) , , Fri-Sun 3:25-7:10 , , Mon 5:55 , , Tue 3:25-7:10 , , Wed-Thu 5:55 Killing Them Softly (14A) , , Fri 4:20-7:20-9:40 , , Sat-Sun 12:15-4:20-7:20-9:40 , , Mon 5:35-8:55 , , Tue 4:20-7:20-9:40 , , Wed-Thu 5:35-8:55
Life of Pi (G) , , Sat-Sun 12:25 , , Mon 5:30 , , Wed-Thu 5:30
Life of Pi 3D (G) , Fri-Sun 3:45-6:40-9:45 , Mon 8:35 , Tue 3:45-6:40-9:45 , Wed-Thu 8:35
Red Dawn (PG) , , Fri 3:50-6:35-9:20 , , Sat-Sun 12:10-3:50-6:35-9:20 , , Mon 5:50-8:50 , , Tue 3:50-6:35-9:20 , , Wed-Thu 5:50-8:50
Rise of the Guardians (G) , , Fri-Sun 4:30 , , Mon 5:20 , , Tue 4:30 , , Wed-Thu 5:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) , Fri 7-9:35 , Sat-Sun 1-7-9:35 , Mon 8:05 , Tue 7-9:35 , Wed-Thu 8:05
Skyfall (PG) , , Fri 3:10-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:50 , , Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:50 , , Mon 5-5:15-8:20-8:40 , , Tue 3:10-4:10-6:30-7:30-9:50 , , Wed-Thu 5-5:15-8:20-8:40
Son of Sardar (PG) , Fri-Sun 3-6:15-9:30 , Mon 5:05 , Tue 3-6:15-9:30 , Wed-Thu 5:05
Talaash (PG) , , Fri 3:15-6:50 , , Sat-Sun 12-3:15-6:50 , , Mon 5:25-8:30 , , Tue 3:15-6:50 , , Wed-Thu 5:25-8:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) , , Fri 3:30-3:55-6:20-7:05-9:15-10 , , Sat-Sun 12:35-1:05-3:30-3:55-6:20-7:05-9:15-10 , , Mon 5:10-5:40-8-8:45 , , Tue 3:30-3:55-6:20-7:05-9:15-10 , , Wed-Thu 5:10-5:40-8-8:45

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Wreck-It Ralph (G) , , Sat-Sun 1:15 , , Mon 5:45 , , Wed-Thu 5:45
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) , Fri-Sun 4-7:15-9:55 , Mon 8:15 , Tue 4-7:15-9:55

, Wed-Thu 8:15

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock
Life of Pi (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Lincoln (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway,
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri 7:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:35
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9 Mon-Thu 7:10-9
Skyfall (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:30

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:40 Sat 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:35-10:40 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:40 Mon-Thu 4-7:25-10:25
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:40-7:10-10-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Otello Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20 Sun 4:50-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:25-7:05-10:10 Wed 3:50-10:35 Thu 4:25-7:05-10:10
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:25-5:55-8:20-10:50 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:35-10:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 2:10-4:40 Sat 11:05 Sun 2:10-4:40 Mon-Tue 3:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3 Thu 3:50 Sat 1:55-4:40
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:35
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:35-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 4-7-10:15
Skyfall (PG) Fri 12-1-3:15-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:45-10:45 Sat 11-12-1-3:15-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:45-10:45 Sun 12-1-3:15-4:20-6:30-7:30-9:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 3:55-4:20-7:15-7:30-10:25-10:40
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:45-7-10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 2:20-5:10-7:15-8-9:55-10:45 Sat 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:45 Sun 2:20-5:10-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 5:10-8-10:45 Fri 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:15-7:20-9:55-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 1:05-4 Sat 11:05-1:05-4 Sun 1:05-4 Mon-Wed 4:05 Thu 3:40
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3-5:30-8:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:10-9:55

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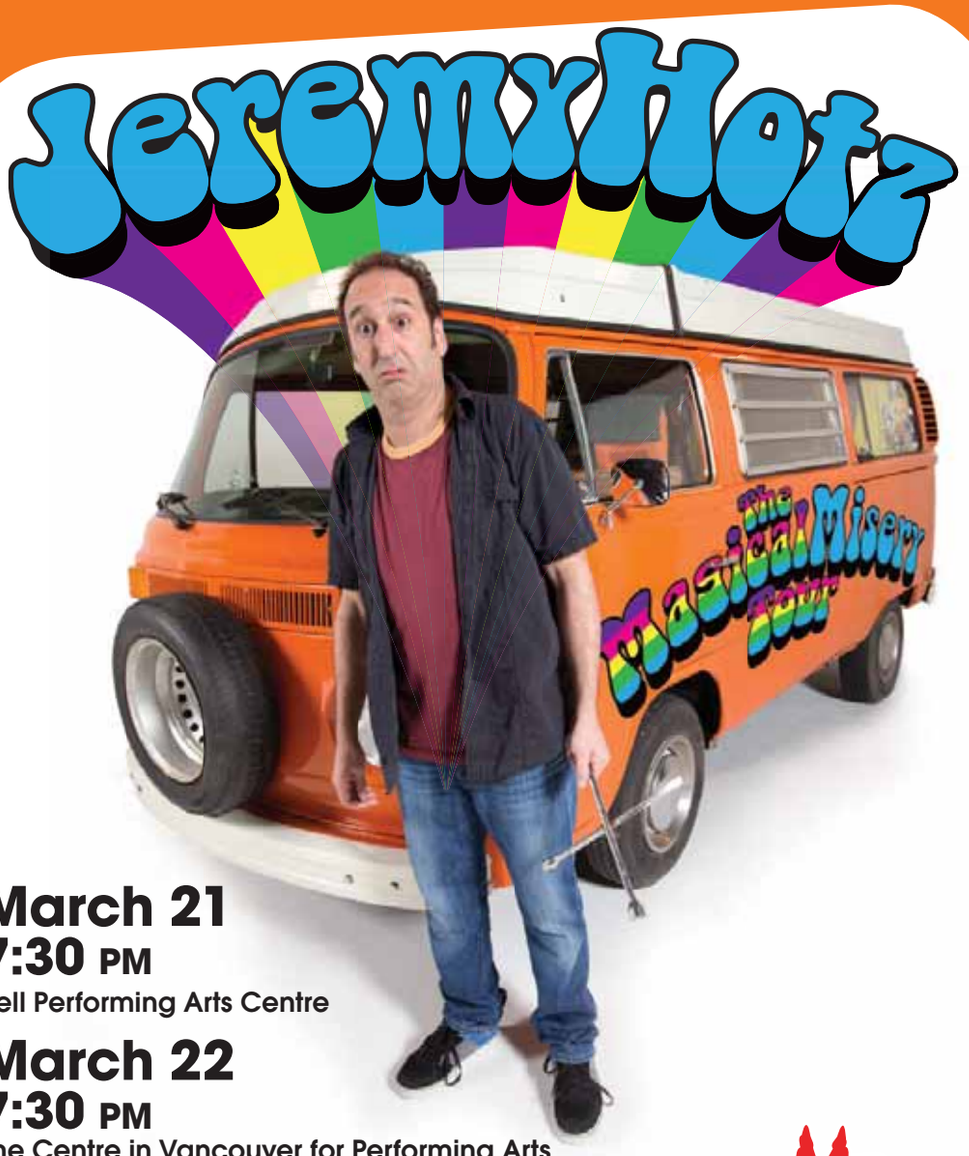

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Psychedelic rockers Black Moth Super Rainbow. SEVEN FIELDS OF APHELION

Masking their shortcomings

New music. Tom Fec from Black Moth Super Rainbow talks singing ability, wearing masks

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Tom Fec, otherwise known as Tobacco, otherwise known (with other band members) as Black Moth Super Rainbow, is something of a man of mystery. Sequestered in the woods outside of Pittsburgh, Fec sings only through the electronic machinations of a vocoder, so it's rare when a journalist gets to hear his absent-minded meanderings without a filter.

"I have a lot of limitations because I can't sing," he explains. "I can pretty much get anything I want out of the vocoder, so that's why I go with it."

Masks are also a major theme for this enigmatic band, who just released their fifth full-length album. Like most of the BMSR albums before it, the cover art for Cobra Juicy features a haunting face. The hollow eyes of it seem to echo the distance Fec puts between himself and the fans of his work, and it gives the psychedelic trash-rock he makes that much more effectively creepy.

"I grew up on Garbage Pail Kids and Mad Balls and all that kind of s—," Fec says. "I was always drawn to this big colourful kind of ugly, but well-designed faces and I think that's what it'll always be. I think (the cover art) is as important as the music. I think it frames it all so I have to make it for every album."

The care that Fec puts into the design of those creepy faces is purposeful, he says. Cobra Juicy was funded by a Kickstarter campaign and Fec wants to be sure that fans are getting something for their money.

"There aren't a lot of bands who really care about their album covers, it feels like," he says. "They're really boring and it makes sense to me why you would want to just download it and not own a physical copy. It's like, 'Why would I want this stupid picture? Why would I want this in my house?'"

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Up and coming pop superstar deals with inevitable comparisons, label problems

New music. The Diamonds singer, who saw some initial success in 2010, is back once again with a new album and approach

LUKE O'NEIL
scene@metronews.ca

Upon the release of her 2010 debut LP, The Family Jewels, it was immediately apparent to anyone paying attention that Marina Diamandis, a.k.a. Marina and the Diamonds, was a bona fide international pop star in the making.

She had the acrobatic voice, indelible hooks and a crush-worthy look (more on that in a minute), but there was a knowingness about the idea of pop-stardom in general embedded in her lyrics that made her appealing to fans who take their pop with a dash of irony.

On her recent release, Electra Heart, the Welsh singer has doubled-down on the reaching-for-the-stars conceit, enlisting the aid of hit-making songwriters like Dr. Luke, Benny Blanco and Diplo.

It's Dr. Luke's effort on her first single, How to be a Heartbreaker, that has brought about so many comparisons to another pop star, Katy Perry, albeit with qualifiers like "edgier."

Is that supposed to be taken as a compliment or an insult?

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"It's neither," says Diamandis. "It's not like an insult or a compliment, it's just not true. The thing is, with Dr. Luke, his style is so cemented, I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy was his first huge success, so it's obvious I'm compared to her. I'm just like, 'Oh, whatever.'"

Also getting a big whatever was her record label's decision in September to delay the release of the Heartbreaker video because, well, they didn't think she looked attractive enough.

She got a call from her manager saying the label didn't like it, she explains: "'They think you need some beauty work,' he said. I said, 'I don't care if they think I'm ugly or not, they need to give me a budget if they want me to look botoxed within an inch of my life.'"

Not that she has a problem with that, she says. "I really don't mind. Everything on the album has been in spirit of that plastic pop element."

Quoted

"I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy (Perry) was his first huge success."

Marina Diamandis
Talking about working with Dr. Luke, the man behind Katy Perry.

Somebody thought this woman wasn't attractive enough to be a popstar? CASPAR BALSLEV

Serena Ryder, the three-time Juno Award winner with the soulful three-octave range, made tracks in her own backyard studio. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Ryder finds broad appeal with new album, Harmony

New music. Ryder goes for wider appeal with a folk-rock approach that draws on a range of musical influences

Toronto power vocalist Serena Ryder was at home but in foreign territory while recording her new album, Harmony.

The three-time Juno Award winner with the soulful three-octave range made the tracks in her own backyard studio, a cosy shed she'd previously only used as a rehearsal space.

Another first: the Weak in the Knees singer-songwriter penned the tunes while falling in love.

And she actually had fun while making the disc, a feeling she admits wasn't predominant in her recording sessions of yore.

The result is a feel-good, catchy collection that touches on a wide range of genres, giving Ryder a broader appeal than the blues-folk-rock categories she's typically been associated with.

DEC 20 @ 6PM
RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER
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"With this record, I feel like it was very, very primal and animalistic and I wasn't really thinking about what direction I'm going to go in," Ryder, who turns 30 on Dec. 8, said in a recent interview.

"I was like, 'I want go in all directions,' because the most frustrating thing that's been the bane of my existence and my career has been people (saying), 'Serena, you've got to pick a style or you're going to confuse people,' ... and I started really believing that. I was like, 'OK, I've got to pick one way of being and one way of singing and one way of branding myself,'" she continued, sitting at a piano in her studio shed that's adorned with vintage furniture and a vast array of instruments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halle Berry

Halle's den of drama for sale, but she's waiting for the Berry best offer

Halle Berry is reportedly selling the Hollywood Hills mansion where her recent Thanksgiving celebrations ended in a brawl between fiancé Olivier Martinez and ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry, according to Hollyscoop. But the Oscar winner isn't unloading it because of the recent bad memories. Berry secretly listed the five-bedroom, 5,900 square-foot home a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving and received an $11 million offer last week, but she's holding out for more.

Two and a Half Men star to return to sitcom after mud sling

Angus T. Jones

Despite making news with a video in which he called Two and a Half Men filth and urged viewers to stop watching, Angus T. Jones will be returning to the hit sitcom when production picks back up in January, according to TMZ. "Angus expects to report to work after the holiday break," a source says. "He intends to honour his contract through the end of the season."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Pull out the pre-written, Lindsay Lohan story template

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With all the divorces, marriages and arrests I report on, being a gossip columnist can sometimes feel like being in Groundhog's Day — and Lindsay Lohan is my Ned Ryerson.

Yes, the troubled starlet was arrested yet again for punching another woman at a New York City nightclub around 4 a.m. on Thursday morning. Lohan apparently was "partying hard" at the club, called Avenue, and was "looking for trouble," a source tells RadarOnline. That trouble manifested itself through a clubgoer named Tiffany Eve Mitchell. Apparently, Mitchell asked Lohan for a photograph. Lohan, who was "drinking heavily and doing cocaine," said no and was "really rude about it." Mitchell kept dancing but Lohan wouldn't let this infraction go. Again, from another eye-witness: "She totally sucker-punched that girl in the face out of nowhere! Nobody saw it coming," RadarOnline.com reports. "Lindsay went wild. She was kicking and screaming, cursing at the girl and then spat at her. The girl looked like she wanted to fight back at Lindsay, but was too startled by all the commotion to react."

So, the cops were called. Lohan was spotted attempting to leave the club, hopping into the passenger seat of her car before cops pulled her out and arrested her. Lohan was heard yelling, "Are you kidding me?" as she was led away, a source says.

She was released four hours later and given a citation and a court date. Being a refined wordsmith, I'm not good at math, but by my calculation, that is probably her one millionth court appointment to date.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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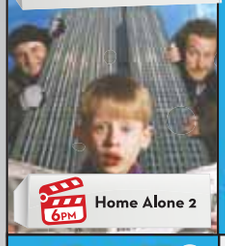
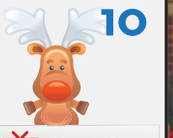
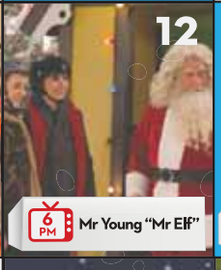
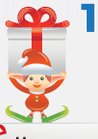
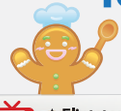
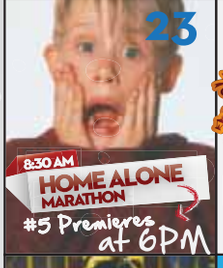
LEGEND
BIG FUN MOVIES | HOLIDAY TV SPECIAL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	3	4	5	6	7	8
Home Alone 2 6PM	Merry Madagascar 6PM	Ice Age Mammoth Christmas 6PM	"A Fairly OddChristmas" 6PM	Kung Fu Panda Christmas 6PM	SpongeBob Christmas! 6PM	Hanukkah 8–16th Beethoven's Christmas Adventure 6PM Dog Who Saved Christmas Vacation 8PM
9	10 	11	12 	13	14 	15
Yogi Bear 3D 4PM Yogi's first Christmas 6PM	How to Rock Christmas 6PM Wipeout "Deck the Balls" 8PM	6PM Life With Boys Christmas The Next Star Christmas Special 6:30PM	Mr Young "Mr Elf" 6PM	Big Time Rush Christmas 6PM	Unaccompanied Minors 6PM Call Me Claus 8PM	Legend of Frosty The Snowman 6PM
16	17	18 	19	20	21	22
Fred Claus 6PM	Tis The Season to be Smurfy 6PM	A Flintstone Christmas 6PM The Next Star Winners Special! 7PM	6PM-8PM Charlie Brown Christmas Specials	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer 6PM	Home Alone 6PM	Christmas With The Kranks 6PM
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30AM Home Alone Marathon #5 Premieres at 6PM	Santa Claus is coming to town 6PM (Literally!)	Merry Christmas!	Kwanzaa (26th – Jan 1st) Ultimate Fan Access: Bring Me to 1D 6PM	Starting at Noon iCarly Marathon	Starting at 9AM Fairly OddParents Marathon	Ice Age "Dawn of the Dinosaurs" 6PM Percy Jackson & The Olympians 8PM
30	31	1				
Nanny McPhee 3:30PM Nanny McPhee Returns 6PM	Countdown to 2013!!!	Happy New Year! Write Your New Year's Resolutions!				

Write to Santa!

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LIFE

Give Martha Stewart a run for her money

First dinner party. Here are some tips to ensure your guests enjoy their evening

EMMA GODMERE
life@metronews.ca

Sure, beer and pizza are perennial party favourites. But treating guests to a home-cooked meal? Now there's a delicious accomplishment.

Planning your first dinner party may sound like a heaping helping of work. But if you're not the type to keep coasters and cocktail napkins on hand, have no fear: playing host isn't all that hard.

You don't even have to have a full-fledged dining room. Ottawa food blogger Kelly Brisson regularly seats her dinner guests around a large, folding card table that she easily stores away.

"Once the food's on it, no one really looks at the table anyway," she laughs.

Brisson has written about crafting simple, savoury meals on her blog, The Gouda Life, for the last four years, and is well-versed on dinner party do's and don'ts. The first thing a new host or hostess should keep in mind, she suggests, is keeping a cool head.

"You really want to spend the day enjoying the process of cooking and just setting up the table the day of the party," she says.

Reduce your day-of duties by tidying your space the day before and preparing side dishes in advance that can be easily reheated prior to your guests' arrival. When it comes to the feat of the feast, consider items that you have cooked up before, or that you're comfortable making and know taste great.

Keep friends' dietary restrictions in mind as you plan your menu. No one should feel left out or think they have to bring their own dish.

That said, if a guest offers to bring something, it's smart to accept. "Let them help you out," says Brisson.

Stock up on ice, Brisson suggests, and have some extra wine and non-alcoholic beverages on hand. Another tip: Craft a special cocktail to offer guests as they arrive. "It makes people feel welcome and it gives you something to talk about — a bit of an icebreaker."

Most importantly? Have fun. "It's just dinner — whoever you've having over is there to eat and enjoy your company," she sums up.

Preparation is one of the keys to a dinner party. ISTOCK

Easy appetizer. Roasted Curry Cauliflower Dip

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into bite-sized florets
- 4 cloves garlic, whole
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) curry powder
- 1/4 tsp (1ml) ground cumin
- pinch cinnamon and salt
- olive oil
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) plain Greek yogurt
- 1 to 2 tbsp (15 to 30 ml) lemon juice
- cayenne pepper, to garnish (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Place cauliflower, garlic cloves, curry, cumin, cinnamon and salt into bowl. Drizzle with olive oil. Toss onto baking sheet and roast 15 minutes, until edges of florets are golden brown. Flip and roast another 8 minutes until everything is golden and fork-tender.

2. Place in food processor with Greek yogurt, lemon juice and a drizzle of olive oil and blend until smooth. Taste for seasoning and add more salt if necessary. Spoon into large bowl, add a touch more olive oil and sprinkle of cayenne pepper. Serve with veggies and pita.

The last of the firsts

This is the final in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Share.** Have you ever thrown a dinner party? Any tips you'd like to share in making it a success? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Liquid Assets

Excellent dinner mates

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

While I like having people over to the house as much as the next guy, plotting a dinner party ranks just below ironing on my list of things I can't stand doing. I know I'm in the minority.

With more and more people DIYing their homesteads into dream palaces, the inclination to have friends over to enjoy the fruits of their labours — during a nice meal accented with a glass of wine — has never been stronger.

Finding an all-purpose dinner wine that will work well with a variety of menus while appealing to a wide range of picky palates isn't easy.

Pinot grigio is my go-to grape on the white side. Italy's Santa Margherita 2011 Pinot Grigio ($16.95 to $21.49) has a crisp, refreshing, lightly citrusy personality that makes a very accommodating table mate. For a red people-pleaser, think sweet rather than dry. E & J Gallo's 2010 Apothic ($14.99 to $17.99) from California has a cocktail vibe to its ripe, just-crushed red berry fruit flavour, thanks to a supportive backbone of residual sugar. Add a slight chill and it pairs remarkably well with most main courses.

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To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Nov30

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

BITTER

Movember Shave-off

Let the shaving begin. Bitter Tasting Room is hosting its first annual shave-off celebration to commemorate the month-long challenge that has taken over the faces of men throughout Vancouver in an effort to raise awareness of men's health. A $10 donation will get you in the door to the event and includes a shave, trim and celebratory refreshment (courtesy of Belmont Barbershop and R&B Brewing). Shaving begins today at 5 p.m. at 16 West Hastings. Visit bittertastingroom.com.

Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge

A winter tradition on the West Coast, Canyon Lights is a stunning event that sees hundreds of thousands of lights all but take over this Pacific Northwest rainforest and also features on-site entertainment, glass blowing demonstrations, carols with the holiday band and plenty more. Proceeds from admission to this seasonal event are donated to the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund and a free shuttle is available daily. Dec. 1 to Jan. 5. Learn more by visiting capbridge.com.

west coast christmas show & marketplace

West Coast Christmas Show & Marketplace

Slip out of the city for a day and head to TRADEX in the Fraser Valley. The West Coast Christmas Show is one of Western Canada's leading holiday season shows and is guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit. Take in hundreds of exhibits, free cheese seminars, score holiday decor ideas and find unique gifts for everyone on your list. Tickets start at $6 for general admission. Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the TRADEX – Fraser Valley & Exhibition Centre (1190 Cornell St.) in Abbotsford. Visit westcoastchristmas show.com.

Cause We Care's Holiday Hamper Drive

Established in 2007, the Vancouver-based Cause We Care Foundation has been striving to help support the lives of local single mothers and children. This year, the organization will again hold its sixth annual Holiday Hamper Drive. Get in on the volunteer action and donate $55 toward filling hampers loaded with non-perishable food items and clothing to help single mothers and their children have a brighter holiday season. Dec. 6, staring at 9 a.m. 750 Terminal Ave. For more information, visit causewecare.org.

THE FARMER AND THE PIG

The Farmer and The Pig

Don't miss out on your chance to enjoy a three-course dinner at Vancouver landmark hot spot Save on Meats. This multi-course menu will be complimented by wines from the Okanagan's own Road 13 Vineyards. This event will see all proceeds going to A Better Life Foundation charity (started by Save on Meats owner Mark Brand, who recently appeared on CBC's The Big Decision). The feast begins at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and tickets are available for only $25. 43 West Hastings. For more info, visit saveonmeats.ca.

Got Craft? Holiday Gift Market

This annual indie craft market is returning to Vancouver's Croatian Cultural Centre just in time for the holidays. It now features the works of more than 80 different artists and vendors on-site showcasing their handmade creations and treats and offering workshops. Mark your calendar and be sure to attend this community event that celebrates the do-it-yourself culture. Dec. 8 to 9, 3250 Commercial Dr. gotcraft.com.

ADVERTORIAL

NEW CHINA KITCHEN RESTAURANT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!!

It's hard to believe its been 20 years already. Originally opened in 1992, the New China Kitchen Restaurant has been bringing delicious food to their loyal followers for many years. Owners Stella Ling and her husband Robert (who is a realtor) look forward to providing exceptional food to their customers for many more years to come!

It's the delicious food that keeps bringing customers back year after year. That, coupled with friendly efficient service is a great recipe to ensure their longevity with a whole new generation of food lovers.

The New China kitchen has always been the biggest buffet in the Tri-city area, and one of the top buffets in the entire lower mainland. Never satisfied to simply be the biggest… owners Stella and Robert also wanted to be known for providing the best value too! In particular, New China Kitchen Restaurant has the least expensive buffet in town.

For just $9.95 at lunch, or $14.95 at dinner, guests can enjoy over 40 piping hot items including Seafood, Cantonese, Szechuan, Singapore and Western style dishes in addition to a salad bar, appetizers, and a dessert and ice cream bar. Combine this with excellent service and a warm inviting environment and guests are sure to have a great experience.

For guests who would prefer to order from the full service menu (rather than the buffet), New China kitchen offers an extensive menu. With more than 100 delicious items to choose from, guests can enjoy their food in the restaurant or as take-out. In fact, the entire menu, including the buffet is now available for take-out!

Are you looking for a place to hold your staff or Christmas party? New China kitchen can hold up to 150 people and can be setup to accommodate a variety of options and separate area's for larger groups.

Stella, Robert and the entire staff of New China kitchen Restaurant would like to thank their friends, family and customers for 20 great years. Whether you're coming in for a quick lunch, a sit down dinner or a large group event, this restaurant has a great reputation in their ability to provide excellent food and service and an unbeatable price!

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HOLIDAY 2012 m gift guide

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Computers and tablets are always great to see under the tree — PAGE 46

The hottest video game titles of the season for your favourite gamer — PAGE 48

Green gift options include making cookies or other baked goods — PAGE 56

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Take a byte out of the holidays

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Computers and tablets are always popular gifts during the holidays. Unfortunately, people are often lured by sales and promotions and fall into the trap of buying the wrong one.

Here's a look at the best tablets and computers so you don't disappoint your loved one this holiday season.

iPad Mini — $329 and up

All the features of Apple's iPad in a model you can hold in one hand. The iPad Mini is the perfect tablet for those on the move. It's small-form factor and light weight means you can stuff it into any bag or purse, yet it can do everything a full-sized iPad can do.

Surface — $499 and up

Microsoft's Surface has features not seen on other tablets. For starters, it comes preloaded with Windows 8, a new take on the classic stuffy operating system. A built-in kickstand gives you freedom to prop it up on any surface, while the Touch Cover (sold separately) not only protects the screen, it doubles as a keyboard. Surface also has a USB port that allows connectivity to many devices, including printers.

Galaxy Nexus 10 — $399.99 and up

Behold the tablet with the amazing screen. Google's Nexus 10 sports the highest resolution on any tablet with more than 4 million pixels in your hand; that's even more than Apple's new iPad. The beautiful screen makes it perfect to use it as an entertainment device, although it will handle any work you throw at it.

New iMac — $1,299 and up

Never has a computer looked this beautiful. Apple's new iMac is a mere five millimetres thin at its outer edge and has 40 per cent less volume than the previous generation. Beautiful yes, but it's also powerful. The latest iMacs contain third-generation Intel processors and has the option of a Fusion-Drive, which combines a traditional hard drive with Flash storage to ensure the programs you use the most launch from Flash storage at lightning speed.

HP SpectreOne — $1,299

Art meets technology. HP's SpectreOne looks like a traditional all-in-one PC, but its looks are deceiving. This Windows 8 PC features a 23.6-inch monitor that is actually a 10-point touchscreen display, so you can simply touch the screen instead of using the touchpad or keyboard. The SpectreOne also features a Beats Audio headphone jack and HDMI-in so you can watch external devices on the beautiful display.

iPad Mini — $329 and up, left, HP SpectreOne — $1,299, above, Sony Vaio Tap 20 — $1,089.99, top right, Microsoft Surface — $499 and up, right.

Galaxy Nexus 10 — $399.99 and up, below, new iMac — $1,299 and up, bot-

With a 20-inch screen it's certainly a large tablet, but who says that's a bad thing.

Sony Vaio Tap 20 — $1,089.99

Is it an all-in-one computer or a tablet? Well, it's both. The secret is in the battery hidden in the screen. Since you don't have to plug it in, you can take the Tap 20 anywhere and use it as a tablet. Or set it up on a flat surface, pull out the keyboard and mouse and use it as a full-fledged computer.

MacBook Pro with Retina Display — $1,699 and up

Spoil your eyes with Apple's latest MacBook Pro. This 13-inch laptop features state-of-the-art processors, amazing graphics capabilities and Flash storage. But the screen is the real draw here. It may be a bit pricier than many laptops in the same size category, but once you feast your eyes on the Retina display, you will have issues using anything else. Seeing is believing.

Correction

The Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS20 retails for $379 and does not have 3-D capabilities. Incorrect information appeared in last week's Holiday Gift Guide. Metro regrets the error.

west coast christmas show & marketplace

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Aim for these hot video game titles

KAREN FALCON
For Metro

If you have a gamer on your list, we're here to help. We've played a bunch of stuff (all less than $60 MSRP) and narrowed it down to the hottest titles available this holiday season. Just remember to buy two — one for them, and one for you.

A screen shot from Assassin's Creed III, the third game in the series that features vast expanses to play in as well as a plethora of weapons. CONTRIBUTED

FOR THE TEEN GAMER AND OLDER:
Borderlands 2
Multi-platform: M
Best shooter! Best RPG! Best DLC (with promises of more)! Best characters! Best (and most) guns in all of video game land! We're pretty sure this is the best of everything and it's all rolled into one package of awesomeness. I don't know how else to tell you this might be "the" game to gift. It's just that good. The single player is grand, the co-op is equally as grand, and the DLC just makes me smile. Not sure if you have heard, but lootin' 'n shootin' are the most fantastic things since sliced bread. Well, that and reloading, tossing out the empty clip, and having it explode like a grenade. We don't think there's anything more enjoyable than reloading and yelling "frag out." Nope, nuthin'.

Halo 4
Xbox 360: M
Wake up, Master Chief! Wake up! It's time to wander around space in your Spartan suit while looking really cool, shooting aliens, and being surrounded with the best graphics we've seen in recent memory. Wow — just wow. Full of everything you expect from the franchise plus a whole lot more — this instalment is the beginning of a whole new saga to save mankind. With new enemies and new ways to track your stats, you can co-op and/or multiplayer your way through this award-winning blockbuster game all the way into 2014. And you know you can make your own multiplayer maps, too, right?

Assassin's Creed III
Multi-platform: M
Free-running is where it's at and you'll need to set aside three solid weeks of your life to do it. Set in Boston, New York, and the frontier, overflowing with incredible attention to detail, the third game in this series does not disappoint. With a new engine, vast expanses to play in, tree canopies to run through, beavers to assassinate, and ships to sail across the seas, staying incognito has never been a more enjoyable challenge. As America's first highly trained Master Assassin, you get a plethora of weapons: Swords, a bow and arrow, some rope darts, a bunch of other stuff, and a tomahawk. Tomahawks are fun — you'll see.

Forza Horizon
Xbox 360: T
Dirt tracks, music festivals, and graphics that will knock your socks off — yes, Forza Horizon is all that and more. No longer the straight-laced racing sim you've come to associate with the name Forza, this title is more like an open-world, racing fun exploring explosion. With hidden cars, 250 events, and a solid AI that takes solo or multiplayer racing into a whole new experience, new fans and old will be driving through signs, painting their cars, destroying some landscaping, and racing their dream cars against aeroplanes. Yes, I said aeroplanes. So good.

Having fun while learning

KAREN FALCON
For Metro

More hot video game titles, this time for the kid gamer (and their parents, too).

Lego The Lord of The Rings
Multi-platform: E10+
Take a little hobbit, turn him into Lego, give him a bunch of friends and a shovel, send him out into a vast Lego universe to protect a ring, and you end up with a monumental adventure full of epic battles, Lego bows, and Lego swords. With more playable characters than you can shake a wizard at, this two-player drop-in/drop-out action-adventure game can be played pretty much until your hands fall off. What's cuter than a Lego hobbit? Mom playing as Gandalf, that's what.

Lego The Lord of The Rings offers more playable characters than you can shake a wizard at. CONTRIBUTED

And then there's motion-sensitive gaming. It's like crack for kids. But it's magic — they don't know they're learning stuff but they are.

Education and gaming together, you say? How?

Specifically for the Xbox 360, it's the Kinect Sensor peripheral ($109 MSRP), and the following whack of engaging titles is readily available for you to gift in the name of fun and learning.

Kinect Sesame Street
If you take real segments from Sesame Street and add motion-sensitive gaming, you get a one-of-a-kind interactive learning experience. Rated Early Childhood, this immersive title allows your child to play catch with Elmo, count coconuts with Grover, use voice commands to take pictures, and engage with some of their other favourite Sesame Street characters.

Nat Geo TV: E10+
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Dance Central 3: T
Four decades of dance moves will have your kids learning original routines while dancing (a.k.a. working out, but don't tell them that) and wearing out the carpet. Seriously voice controlled and packed with more than 40 songs from yesterday and today, Dance Central 3 also includes a brand spanking new multiplayer mode for up to eight players. Your kids need this – at the very least so you can do the hustle with them and six of their very best friends.

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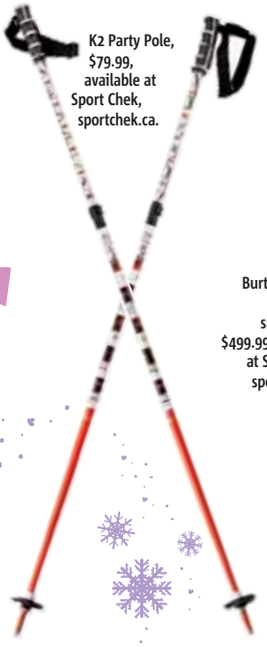

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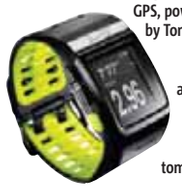

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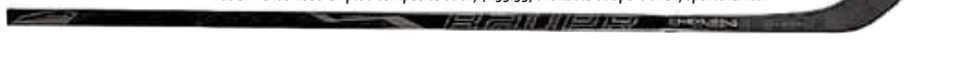

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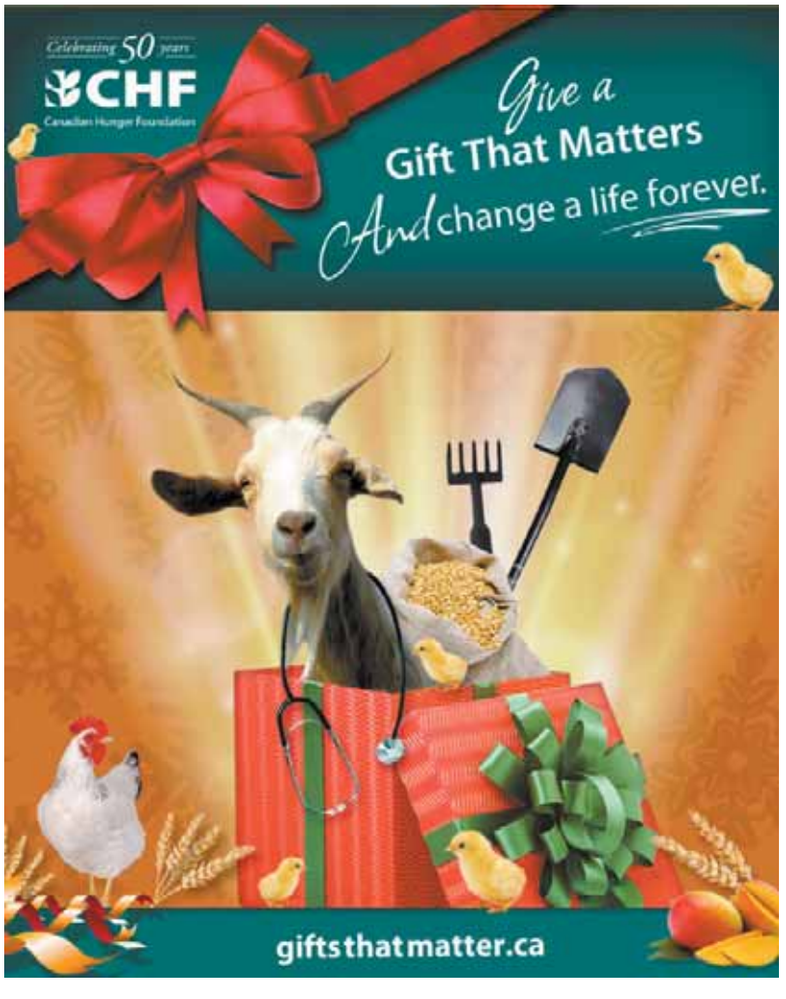

Recipe. Sweet and Salty Shortbread Mounds

This recipe for delightful treats makes about 5 dozen cookies. Enjoy!

Sweet and Salty Shortbread Mounds. CONTRIBUTED

Ingredients:

- 1 cup softened Gay Lea Unsalted Butter
- 1 cup instant dissolving sugar
- 1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup crumbled, salted pretzel sticks
- ½ cup chopped, salted roasted peanuts

Chocolate Glaze:

- ¾ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3 tbsp Gay Lea Unsalted Butter
- 1 tbsp corn syrup

Instructions:

Beat the butter with the sugar, peanut butter and vanilla until fluffy. Beat the flour and salt into the butter mixture just until combined. Stir in the pretzels and peanuts. Chill for 15 minutes.

Roll 1 tbsp portions of the dough into balls. Arrange the balls, about 1-inch apart, on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Bake, in batches, for 14 to 16 minutes or just until pale golden on the bottom (do not over-bake). Cool completely on the baking sheets.

Chocolate Glaze: Melt chocolate chips with butter and corn syrup until smooth.

Dip the top of each cookie into the chocolate mixture. Sprinkle with additional finely chopped pretzels and peanuts to garnish. Let stand until chocolate is set.

Tip:

Store the baked cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week, or in the freezer for up to one month.

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LISA BORDEN
YummyMummyClub.ca

Instead of careening madly around stores, desperately purchasing gifts this holiday season (translation: Possibly useless stuff that is not needed or wanted), make the getting and giving of gifts green this year.

The green present is one that inspires people to live healthier lives, makes the world a better place, supports good people and companies, doesn't contribute excess litter and waste, and makes your getters very happy.

To help you in your quest to give the perfect green gifts, here are some great ideas for the holiday season:

SHARE YOUR OWN GIFTS

Make something (cookies? bread?) and deliver it once a month. Offer up what you are good at (babysitting? handiwork?) and give as a gift certificate. You can even collect your favourite recipes and put them into a recipe box.

GIVE GIFTS THAT ARE INDULGENT (BUT NOT REALLY!)

Why not give an organic hot/cold therapy pillow, or fair trade chocolate, coffee, or tea?

GIVE A GIFT THAT ISN'T A THING

Give a membership to a museum or art gallery, or a night out at the movies, a tree to plant, a weekend away, tickets to a concert, or a donation to a favourite charity.

Making cookies and delivering them once a month is a present that may inspire others to make the world a better place. GEORGE DOYLE/STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

GIVE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

Reusable water bottles (not plastic!) and reusable grocery bags make great gifts.

Or you can even send local weekly fruit and vegetable boxes.

BE CREATIVE

Use reusable containers or bags to package. Use old newspapers, magazines or comics to wrap. Use scarves, bandanas, belts or shoelaces to tie. Use fresh herbs, old buttons or cut-up textiles to adorn.

AND HINTS FOR THE DAY AFTER ...

Wrapping paper and ribbon from others: Re-use.

The big pile of holiday cards from everyone: Recreate (make them into note cards).

Unneeded and unwanted stuff: Re-gift.

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Former Canucks captain Trevor Linden speaks at a news conference at Pacific Coliseum on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Linden disappointed in lockout situation

Remembering the past. Longtime Canuck to be honoured during Saturday's Giants game

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Trevor Linden was diplomatic in his assessment of the current NHL lockout, which has wiped out nearly two months of regular-season hockey.

His former coach with the Vancouver Canucks, Pat Quinn, also didn't sound optimistic.

"I'm not going to say a lot, but only that it's disappointing to see the game not being where it should be and that's on the ice," Linden told reporters at the Pacific Coliseum Thursday.

"I follow it, but it's not my issue anymore."

The Vancouver Giants will honour Linden during Saturday's game against the Tri-City Americans as part of the local Western Hockey League team's Heroes of Hastings series.

Quinn, who as general manager of the Canucks selected Linden second overall in the 1988 NHL draft and coached him in the 1994 Stanley Cup final, echoed that sentiment.

"I get asked a lot, like I might have some insight, but I do not," Quinn said.

"They'll reach a decision but right now it's still tough negotiations and we miss the game. We shouldn't be out. The damage that could happen.... It's time to make a deal and make sure we save our business."

Of course, both were on hand to reminisce about the past — happier days removed from labour negotiations, lockouts and lawyers.

Linden was long the face of the Canucks franchise, particularly during the team's rise to success in the early 1990s that culminated with an emotional run to Game 7 of the 1994 Stanley Cup final against the New York Rangers.

"Winning the '94 Western Conference final was obviously a highlight," Linden said.

"And then, of course, probably the greatest game I think possibly in Canucks history was Game 6 against New York in '94. So many great memories here, for sure."

Quinn, whom Linden called a "father figure," vividly recalls watching Linden develop from a junior player to professional, as well as the playoff run that fell one win short of hockey's Holy Grail.

"Over the years that he played here, just to watch him mature and grow," Quinn said.

"And his attitude was never say die. I mean he just wanted to get better every day, and his teammates ... he wasn't afraid to challenge them."

NCAA

Cardinals put end to Clan's national championship bid

The SFU Clan's hopes for an NCAA Division II men's soccer championship have ended.

The Clan fell 3-1 to the Saginaw Valley Cardinals in the Final Four semifinal on Thursday in Evans, Ga.

SFU, the first non-American school to compete in the NCAA, trailed early in the match and never recovered, despite several attempts in the second half.

Zach Walega opened the scoring in the 15th minute, but it was a pair of Cardinals goals four minutes apart in the second half — Lachlan Savage and Zach Myers scored in the 52nd and 56th minutes, respectively — that ultimately sunk the Clan.

SFU gave itself a faint glimmer of hope with a goal from Carlo Basso in the 59th minute.

METRO

AHL

Heat set to honour Habs great Yvan Cournoyer

The Abbotsford Heat, home after a five-game road trip that saw them collect seven of a possible 10 points, host the Hamilton Bulldogs this weekend.

The Heat lead the league with a 12-2-2-2 record and 28 points, as they welcome the Montreal Canadiens farm team to the Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre for a quick two-game miniseries Friday and Saturday.

Yvan Cournoyer, a 10-time Stanley Cup champion with the Canadiens, will be on hand on Friday for the Heat's Legends of Hockey.

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Leafs prospect draws rave reviews

WHL. Fifth overall selection in draft draws hefty comparisons to NHL blue-liners

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Morgan Rielly draws a number of comparisons to NHL defencemen, past and present.

For instance, Rielly, the Moose Jaw Warriors' slick-skating offensive blue-liner and product of West Vancouver's Hollyburn Country Club, believes he emulates Kris Letang of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

His head coach in Moose Jaw, Mike Strothers, goes one bigger, comparing Rielly's skills to Brian Leetch, a Hockey Hall of Famer, two-time Norris Trophy winner and Conn Smythe winner during the New York Rangers' 1993-94 Stanley Cup run.

"Two pretty good comparisons if you ask me. I'm not going to complain about either one of them," Rielly said on Wednesday, after scoring the winning goal in the Warriors' 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Giants.

Indeed, the future looks bright for the Toronto Maple Leafs' first-round, fifth overall selection in June's NHL Entry Draft.

He was the Warriors' most dynamic offensive threat against the Giants, jumping into the rush on several occasions, even finding himself on a short-handed breakaway in the third period.

He didn't score on that opportunity. His shot rang off the post.

"Morgs (Rielly) does have some restrictions, but you don't want to stifle his creativity and his skating ability," Strothers said.

Now awaiting the 18-year-old Rielly is an invitation to Canada's selection camp for the upcoming world junior hockey championship.

Hockey players are systematically taught not to think ahead past their next game, but Rielly admitted he's thought about representing Canada.

"It's obviously pretty hard to not be concentrated on that," said Rielly, who missed 54 games last season due to a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"But I'm also just trying to keep playing a good year here in Moose Jaw with this team and keep trying to win every night."

By the numbers

30

After Wednesday's game, Morgan Rielly had accumulated five goals and 25 assists for 30 points in 28 games with the Moose Jaw Warriors.

Not losing sleep over missed chance with Leafs

Morgan Rielly says last year's knee injury and his high draft selection have not changed him and he doesn't want to think too much about the chance to play for the Leafs.

- "Obviously that didn't happen, but I wasn't too worried about trying to play on that team as an 18-year-old," he said. "It didn't happen, but hopefully I get that chance in the future."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moose Jaw Warriors defenceman Morgan Rielly looks up ice for an open teammate in the first period of Wednesday's Western Hockey League game against the Vancouver Giants at the Pacific Coliseum. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Women's soccer

Sinclair snubbed for soccer award

John Herdman says it's a "travesty" that Canada's soccer captain Christine Sinclair has been snubbed for FIFA's women's player of the year award.

But the coach of the Canadian team that captured bronze at the London Olympics said a lack of knowledge about the women's game is more to blame than any malicious intent.

And besides, the coach added, international recognition isn't what his star striker plays for.

"It's a travesty," Herdman said from Vancouver. "A player who can score a hat trick in a semifinal and lead her country to the first (Olympic team) medal since 1936, the first time Canada's ever been on a (soccer) podium at one of these events, and still be one of the leading scorers in the world ... and she can't get in the top three."

Americans Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan and Brazil's Marta make up the final three, after a vote by national team coaches, captains and reporters.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Life is good and getting better by the moment but for some strange reason you seem to be fearing the worst at the moment. Don't worry, whatever disaster you think is lurking round the next corner will fail to materialize.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Steer clear of disputes and disagreements that have nothing directly to do with you. If you allow yourself to be dragged in by one side or the other, you may never get out again — and you'll lose friends on both sides.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have worked hard to get to your present position in life, so don't feel guilty just because not everyone hasn't been as fortunate as you. Lady Luck smiles most on those who deserve it — and you do.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
An opportunity to get on in the world will arrive out of the blue today or over the weekend. It could mean a promotion but it could also mean that you pack a bag and travel to some exotic land.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have accomplished a lot this year but you know you are capable of more, so step up a gear and let the world know what a special individual you are. The planets will do something to give you a push today.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to get over the idea that everyone sees the world the same way as you. If nothing else, it puts you at a disadvantage by making it hard for you to take on board other people's insights and discoveries.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must find time in your busy schedule to let partners and loved ones know how much you care for them. On the home front, especially, you seem to have been a bit distant of late. Do some fun things together today.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Don't worry if certain people seem less than enthusiastic about your plans because most likely they are jealous and want to see you fail. You won't, of course. You'll succeed brilliantly and won't let them forget it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you do small favours for other people now, they will do big favours for you later on. So, make an effort and make friends with those you interact with both personally and professionally. You may need their help soon.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
An opportunity to move up in the world will come your way today and you must grab it with both hands. It will certainly mean more work and more responsibility but since when have you been a stranger to those?

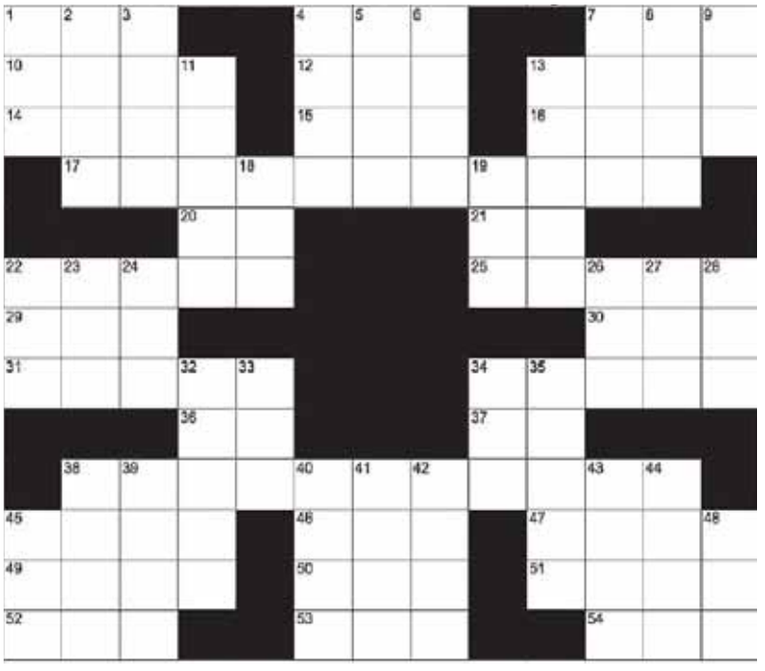
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You need to make amends for something you did or something you said a while back. It may not have been your intention to be hurtful but the fact is you were and egos can be such fragile things.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Make sure you get the respect you deserve from those you work with. Sometimes you can be a bit too easygoing for your own good but today you really must put your own needs first.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

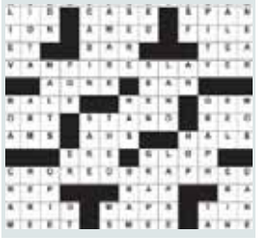
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Request
4. Wise old bird
7. Alice spin-off
10. Ogle
12. Prior to
13. "A Simple —"
14 Courtroom bargain
15. Plural suffix
16. Flying (prefix)
17. Novice workers
20. "That is" Latin abbr.
21. Gone with the Wind actress Olivia – Havilland
22. Tons
25. Emmy cousin
29. Time Warner cable network (abbr.)
30. Casual greeting
31. Sour
34. Frighten away
36. He played "Dirty Harry" (init.)
37. Ready – Not
38. One who finishes hair (2 words)
45. West Germany capital
46. Yes, to Angus
47. Only
49. Eager
50. Late night weekend skit show (init.)
51. Predecessor of Johnny Carson
52. Microsoft internet site (abbr.)
53. Predatory fish
54. Resort

Down
1. Swiss mountain
2. Actress Ward of Once and Again
3. Save for oneself
4. Sheriff Taylor's son
5. Songbird
6. — We Forget
7. On the lam
8. Phyllis's never seen husband on Mary Tyler Moore
9. Mrs. John Lennon
11. Speedy
13. Walks back and forth
18. Telephone book listing (abbr.)
19. Wedding vows
22. — Na Na
23. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (abbr.)
24. Agency of Record (abbr.)
26. Part of a Dancing with the Stars dance
27. — Lingus
28. Deli bread
32. Cake covering
33. James Van – Beek of Don't Trust the B—in Apartment 23
34. Sun God
35. Curl
38. Swine
39. Soon
40. Envelope abbr.
41. Actress Daly of Judging Amy
42. Scream
43. Oceans
44. Ensnare
45. Emeril's favourite expression
48. Time frame

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	5		7		4		8	
			9		5			
8		9				2		7
		4	5		7	1		
7								4
		2	1		9	8		
5		1				3		8
			8		6			
	6		3		1		9	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	1	3	2	6	4	5	7
4	3	6	7	5	9	8	2	1
5	2	7	4	8	1	9	3	6
7	4	8	6	1	3	2	9	5
3	1	2	5	9	4	6	7	8
6	5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4
2	6	5	9	4	7	1	8	3
9	7	3	1	6	8	5	4	2
1	8	4	2	3	5	7	6	9

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Friday 10°/8° Rain 70%
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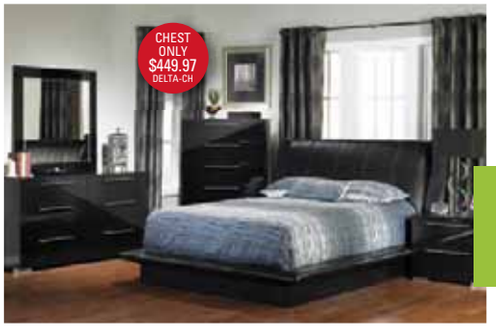

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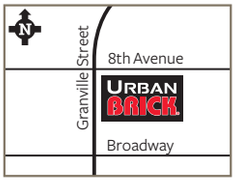

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Cancun Air + 21 Nights
from **$1549**
INCLUDES accom in a beachfront resort in Cancun's hotel zone.

St Petersburg, FL
Air + 21 Nights — from $1674
INCLUDES beachfront accom. ADD Busch Gardens and Adventure Island combo entry ticket from $128.

Sydney Air + 18 Nights — from $3344
INCLUDES apartment-style accom at Bondi Beach.

Ski Vacations

Sun Peaks
3 Nights + 2-Day Lift Pass
from **$374**pp
INCLUDES accom in the heart of Sun Peaks Village and 2-day lift ticket.

Big White
3 Nights + 2-Day Lift Pass — from $399pp
INCLUDES ski-in, ski-out accom in the resort Village and 2-day lift ticket.

Whistler
4 Nights + 3-Day Lift Pass — from $609pp
INCLUDES accom in the Pedestrian Village and 3-day lift ticket to ski Whistler/Blackcomb.

Hawaii

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights
from **$744**
INCLUDES Waikiki accom.

Maui Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $949
INCLUDES oceanview Ka'anapali Beach accom.

Kona Air + 7 Nights — from $1129
INCLUDES accom in an oceanfront resort overlooking Kailua Bay.

Hawaii Valentine's Day Island Hopper
Air + 7 Nights — from $1399
INCLUDES all airfare, 3 nights Maui accom and 4 nights Waikiki accom. UPGRADE to oceanview accom from $10 per night.

Cruise & Stays

Hawaii
Air + 2 Nights + 14-Night Cruise
from **$1639**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, resort style Mission Bay accom and cruise sailing roundtrip San Diego visiting the Big Island, Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Ensenada (Mexico).

California & Mexico
Air + 3 Nights + 4-Night Cruise — from $879
INCLUDES roundtrip Los Angeles airfare, historical Long Beach accom near the cruise port and cruise sailing roundtrip Long Beach visiting Catalina Island and Ensenada (Mexico).

Vacations

Paris Valentine's Day
Air + 6 Nights
from **$1599**
INCLUDES central accom near the Eiffel Tower.

Rio de Janeiro Air + 8 Nights — from $2154
INCLUDES Copacabana Beach area accom. BONUS daily breakfast included. ADD city tour to Sugarloaf from $99.

Bali Air + 7 Nights — from $1639
INCLUDES Ubud accom. BONUS daily breakfast included. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $26 per night. ADD Waterbom Park one day entry pass from $36.

Las Vegas

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from **$341**
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USA

Phoenix Air + 3 Nights
from **$385**
INCLUDES Scottsdale 1-bedroom villa self-contained accom.

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $289◊
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Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $380
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San Diego Air + 3 Nights — from $639
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New Orleans
Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — from $769
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